

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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Volume 2, No. 196 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004

Army mulls female GIs in 'units of action'

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Victoria Snelgrove

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World Series in Cards for St. Louis

- Cardinals beat Astros to reach first Fall Classic since '87
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St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols celebrates his team's 5-2 victory over Houston in Game 7 to win the National League Championship Series at Busch Stadium in St. Louis on Thursday. Pujols, who hit .500 against the Astros, was chosen as the series' Most Valuable Player.

AP

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States

Crematorium scandal: A federal judge has approved a settlement agreement between family members and a Rome, Ga., crematory operator accused of failing to burn hundreds of corpses. The agreement, which was approved Thursday by U.S. District Judge Harold L. Murphy, says the plaintiffs in the civil suit cannot go after the assets of Ray Brent Marsh or his family.

Instead the \$30 million settlement, which was first proposed in August, will come from Marsh's insurance company, Georgia Farm Bureau.

The case stems from the discovery of 334 decaying bodies at the Tri-State Crematory in Noble in February 2002.

Peterson trial: A witness critical to Scott Peterson's defense conceded on the stand that he made an assumption in calculating when Laci Peterson's fetus died, a potential victory for prosecutors as Peterson's murder trial is nearing its conclusion.

The age of the fetus is crucial because defense lawyers maintain it was born alive, proving Scott Peterson couldn't have killed his wife — given her due date of Feb. 10, nearly seven weeks after she vanished. By that time, a nationwide search was under way and Scott Peterson was under police observation.

Dr. Charles Marshall's testimony would undercut the prosecution's claim that Scott Peterson murdered his wife on or around Dec. 24.

Robert Blake case: A judge has dealt a blow to Robert Blake's defense, barring his lawyers from presenting the theory that others, including a key prosecution witness, conspired to murder the actor's wife.

Superior Court Judge Schenck said Thursday in Los Angeles that attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach would be blocked from asking witness Ronald "Duffy" Hamilton whether he conspired to kill Blake's wife on behalf of Marlon Brando's son, Charles.

Sinclair documentary controversy: A longtime chronicler of John Kerry sued Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. on Thursday to stop it from using his pictures and film in its program that features parts of an anti-Kerry documentary.

Filmmaker George Butler's lawsuit, filed in a New York federal court, says the program scheduled for Friday violates his copyrights of material covering much of the Democratic presidential candidate's adult life. Butler seeks unspecified damages.

Gay marriage amendment: The Ohio Supreme Court on Thursday rejected the last pending legal challenge to placing a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and recognition of same-sex couples on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The court ruled 6-1 on technical grounds, saying it did not have jurisdiction over the claim, that opponents did not make their claim far enough ahead of the election and that a lower court had already ruled on the same issues.

Anthrax leak investigation: Attorneys for former Army scientist Steven Hatfill won the federal government's agreement Thursday to a plan that could speed the questioning of journalists about the source of leaks in the massive anthrax investigation.

Hatfill's attorneys have been attempting to track the reporters' sources as part of a lawsuit accusing Attorney General John Ashcroft and other federal officials of harassment. The suit accuses federal authorities of tarnishing Hatfill with public statements and private leaks that described him as a "person of interest" in the investigation into the anthrax-laced mailings in late 2001.

Martha Stewart in prison: Martha Stewart



California storms: River Trails Riding Stable workers and volunteers unload a make-shift raft full of items salvaged from a flooded area in Norco, Calif., on Wednesday. A fierce storm swept through Southern California and Nevada, dumping almost a foot of rain in some areas, 3 feet of snow in others, and pushing mud near fire-scattered mountain hamlets. Two climbers and a security guard were killed in the mess. Roadways were drenched, and two pipelines that send gasoline and jet fuel to Phoenix and Las Vegas were shut down before the storm moved southeast into Imperial County and Mexico. No more rain was expected in Los Angeles for days.

War on terrorism

U.N. oil-for-food scandal: The independent panel investigating alleged corruption in the multibillion-dollar U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq released the names of 248 companies on Thursday that received Iraqi oil and 3,545 companies that exported goods to Saddam Hussein's government.

Former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who was appointed in April by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to lead the inquiry, also said his probe had met some resistance in France and in Iraq.

The committee, Volcker said, also has not gotten documents as fast as it would like from the American accounting firm Ernst & Young, which was hired by the Iraqi Board of Supreme Audit to review more than 20,000 files from Saddam's regime.



Volcker

World

French head scarf ban: A high school that excluded three Sikh boys for wearing turbans to school must convene a disciplinary hearing within 15 days to decide the outcome of their cases, a French court ruled Friday.

The administrative court ruling is the latest twist in France's attempt to apply a new law that bans students from wearing obvious religious apparel in public schools.

The ruling was in response to a petition filed by Sikhs after the boys were kept out of class at the Louise Michel school in the Paris suburb of Bobigny for refusing to remove their turbans.

Beef exports to Japan: Japanese and U.S. officials decided Friday to extend their talks on ending Tokyo's 10-month-old ban on imports of U.S. beef after failing to reach an accord, an official said.

Officials will continue negotiating on Saturday, said Mitsue Asari, a spokeswoman for Japan's Foreign Ministry. They had been due to wrap up two days of discussions on Friday.

Stories and photo from wire reports

art says she has been delayed by "thousands" of letters from fans sent to her federal prison camp in Alderson, W.Va., some of which have even included gifts and money.

But, she lamented, the gifts are not allowed to reach her. In a posting on her Web site, marthstalks.com, Stewart instead urged fans to make a donation to the American Cancer Society instead.

Limbaugh investigation: Rush Limbaugh on Thursday appealed a court ruling that would allow prosecutors investigating his use of painkillers to examine his medical records.

The conservative commentator has said that the seizure of the records violated his privacy, and that he committed no crime. Limbaugh attorney Roy Black asked for a rehearing by Florida's 4th District Court of Appeal.

Investigators raided Limbaugh's doctors' offices in November to see if Limbaugh had engaged in "doctor shopping," or illegally visiting several doctors to receive duplicate prescriptions. Limbaugh has not been charged.

Fla. right-to-die case: The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday rebuffed another effort by Gov. Jeb Bush to keep a severely brain-damaged woman alive against her husband's wishes.

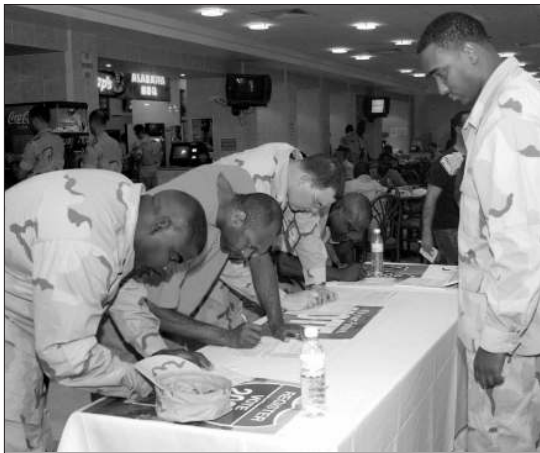
Without comment, the court rejected Bush's request that it reconsider last month's decision striking down a state law that the governor invoked to have Terri Schiavo's feeding tube reinserted.

Schiavo has been at the center of one of the nation's longest and most bitter right-to-die cases, a dispute that has pitted her husband against her parents.

D.C. subway arrest: Charges were dropped Thursday against a pregnant woman arrested and forced to the ground by Metro Transit Police for allegedly talking too loudly on a cell phone.

The 23-year-old Aaron was arrested Sept. 9 at a subway station in the Maryland suburb of Wheaton and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Officials of the transit system had claimed that one of their officers heard Aaron yelling obscenities into a cell phone and said that when the officer told her to stop, she used similar language on him.



JOSEPH EBAL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Legalman 1st Class Greg J. Dorsey, Naval Support Activity Bahrain command and voting assistance team coordinator, helps sailors register to vote at the Desert Dome Food Court in Bahrain in August. The voting team offers registration booths, command voting assistance officers and federal post-card applications at the NSA Bahrain post office.

Voting effort for ships at sea leaves no 'stone unturned'

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — In an effort to ensure no absentee ballot is left behind, Navy ships out to sea are giving ballots top priority and encouraging sailors to fax or even e-mail their votes.

This year, the Navy has launched an aggressive campaign to help sailors vote no matter where they are in the world.

"Believe me when I tell you that there isn't a stone unturned," said Lt. Bill Danzi, the Navy's Voting Assistance Program action officer in Millington, Tenn., in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. "There is a constant vigilant effort regardless of location or command operation to ensure the ballots get back to the elections commissions on time and that elections commissions receive the ballots."

Postal employees are sending containers, boxes and envelopes with votes with special priority. Some aircraft carriers have special drop-off boxes placed around the ships so the 5,000 sailors can get their ballot out in time. And unlike the last presidential election, all ballots are postmarked.

The Navy estimates that there are 1 million potential absentee voters, including active-duty sailors and officers, reservists, civilian employees and eligible family members, according to Danzi.

The aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, which is cruising in the Persian Gulf region, has received about 3,000 absentee ballots, said Lt. Evan Stanley, the ship's voting assistance officer.

Some ballots from states such as Illinois and Michigan have come in late because of legal wrangling

over long-shot candidate Ralph Nader getting on the ballot.

"We've been telling our folks as soon you get it, vote it," Stanley said.

Of the thousands of absentee votes cast this year, those coming from under way ships might have the most challenging and complicated route to election headquarters.

Mail aboard ships is often unpredictable. It can take nearly two weeks to get mail to them and various factors, including weather and aircraft problems, can postpone a drop-off and pick-up. Ships not in port typically rely on aircraft to transfer mail.

Four years ago, the Navy rushed a small bag of ballots that did not get mailed from ships. About a dozen of the ballots were from ships in the Persian Gulf that supported the USS Cole after the terrorist bombing in 2000.

The Navy has 161 ships away from their homeport and nearly 50,000 people deployed worldwide, according to the Navy's Web site. The Navy doesn't know how many absentee ballots have been mailed, but Danzi said the 1,650 voting assistance officers throughout the fleet are helping make sure everyone who wants to vote will.

In the small Middle Eastern island of Bahrain, home of the Navy's 5th Fleet, sailors were encouraged this past summer to get their ballots in early.

"We know that being deployed in the Arabian Gulf doesn't make mail real easy so that's why we've taken these measures to make sure people know well in advance what they need to do and have all the materials they need," said Lt. Bill Speaks, 5th Fleet spokesman.

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Less than half of voters in Europe have sent ballots

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — With the general election just days away, less than half of the U.S. troops, Defense Department civilians and family members living in Europe have mailed in absentee ballots, according to U.S. military officials.

To date, the military postal system has mailed about 68,000 ballots back to the States, which accounts for about 45 percent of the 150,000 voting-age U.S. identification-card holders living in Europe.

But the military is making a last-ditch effort to get absentee votes out in hope of preventing problems that left up to one-third of overseas military votes uncounted four years ago.

Starting Monday, every absentee ballot will be sent via express mail — at no cost to the customer, said Maj. Brad Hamman, installation voting assistance officer for Ramstein Air Base and all other 435th Air Base Wing facilities.

In 2000, 30 percent of military voters, who requested ballots didn't get them in time to vote, according to the Pentagon. The handling of military ballots was a major issue in Florida in 2000, when election officials rejected hundreds of military absentee ballots, many because they lacked postmarks or signatures.

This year, military postal workers have developed a special system to ensure that voting materials get to voters and completed ballots are returned in a timely manner, with postmarks and signatures, Hamman said.

"There were some problems with the military postal system processes four years ago, and it was a significant part of the overall problems" with the election, Hamman said.

"They've fixed that big time," he said. "At least as fixed as it can be."

New postal measures include immediate post-marking of all ballots, separating ballots from other mail and specially marking mail trays filled with balloting material. Plus, every unit must have a voting assistance officer and one voting assistance counselor for every 40 military members, Hamman said.

"I've never seen such a full-court press for people to participate in the process," he said.

However, anecdotal evidence indicates that plenty of troops missed out on casting their ballots this year.

Pfc. Aaron O'Hara, posted at

Absentee voters get more time

Some states have extended the deadline to receive absentee ballots, allowing voters to mail ballots as late as Election Day, Nov. 2.

Those states are Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Washington and West Virginia. The Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia also will accept the later ballots.

Some states will accept ballots up to Nov. 12. Voters should check with their home state election officials or their military voting assistance officer for information.

The U.S. Army Europe voting assistance hot line is: DSN: 379-9712 or civilian: 06202-809712. Voters also can get more information at www.fvap.gov.

Source: U.S. Army Europe

Logistics Support Area Anacapa, near Balad, Iraq, said he didn't vote. His squad leader explained the process but it was too much effort to apply for a ballot, O'Hara said.

"I guess I'm too lazy," said O'Hara, of Company B, 84th Engineer Battalion.

Others had trouble getting their absentee ballots in the field. Spc. Jonathan Taisacan of Guam said he couldn't get an absentee ballot when he applied to the United States. So he won't be voting.

"They make easy things hard," he said.

In Europe, complications still exist despite the special mail handling. In several states, court cases — many over whether candidate Ralph Nader will appear on ballots — and other glitches in the system have hung up the printing and mailing of absentee ballots.

"There are hundreds of people I'm responsible for who didn't get their ballot yet," Hamman said.

And military postal workers and unit voting advisers sometimes struggle to comply with the voting regulations in each of the 50 states, counties and, at times, townships.

"All of them do it a little differently," Hamman said. "It's a real challenge for the postal guys."

SEE VOTING ON PAGE 4

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

'Pay gap' closer for mobilized troops, workers

The Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, designed to protect GIs from predatory financial-services agents, is delayed until the 109th Congress convenes in January.

Introduced by Rep. Max Burns, R-Ga., and passed by the House last month, HR 5011 would block the sale of bad investment products such as contractual mutual funds and costly life insurance packages pitched as investments to servicemembers.

It would require that state insurance laws be enforced on military property to stop long-standing practice of agents selling on base products banned by state regulations.

Andrew Gray, spokesman for Senate Banking Committee, said the committee will be ready to act on these issues in 2005. Committee chairman Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and ranking Democrat, Maryland's Paul Sarbanes, have asked the Government Accountability Office and the Securities and Exchange Commission to review investment marketing practices that have targeted servicemembers.

"Once we have a clear picture of the problem, we will be able to move quickly,"

said Gray. "This is a priority for us" in 2005.

Meanwhile, Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., Chuck Hagel, R-Ieb., and Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have introduced a bill identical to HR 5011 to end the sale on military bases of contracted mutual funds with heavy up-front commissions, and insurance packages with coverage values far more expensive than government-subsidized plans.

Closing the gap

Civilian employees of Reserve and National Guard members who are mobilized longer than six months could be offered new tax breaks soon to close a "pay gap" between employees' military income and lost civilian wages.

Senate Republicans, before adjourning for fall elections, yielded to threats from Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., to block a \$137 billion corporate tax break bill if mobilized troops and their civilian bosses didn't get to sip at the same tax-break trough.

An angry Landrieu told Military Update on Oct. 15 that House Republican leaders, in closed-door deliberations with Senate colleagues, had tossed out her Sen-

ate-passed amendment to give Reserve and Guard employees up to \$2 billion in tax breaks to continue paying some wages to mobilized employees. The idea was to entice more employers to make up any difference between temporary military compensation and pre-mobilization civilian pay.

"We thought that at the top of the list of people deserving help would be the Guard and Reserve on the front lines taking the bullets. But obviously we were wrong. Silly us," said Landrieu. She blamed House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (Ill.) Majority Leader Tom DeLay (Texas) and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (Calif.).

Landrieu said 41 percent of reserve component members deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan "take a pay cut." Many employers "do the patriotic thing" and make up the difference "so if the guy was making \$50,000 when he left the states, and he's making \$30,000 on the front line, some of them are sending them paychecks for \$20,000 to keep his family whole."

Small businesses "doing the right thing" deserve tax credits more than most businesses so her initiative should have survived House scrutiny, she said.

"We had a \$137 billion benefit package basically going out to... a wide variety of

industries, large and small, none of which would actually be in business if it wasn't for the soldiers on the battlefield." But as Congress shaped its tax bill, she said, servicemembers "were slapped in the face."

Landrieu vowed that Friday to "do everything in my power to slow this process down if not disrupt it entirely."

Retiree COLA

Military and federal civilian retirees, Social Security recipients, survivor benefit annuitants and veterans drawing disability compensation will see a 2.7 percent increase Dec. 1, payable in January.

The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) reflects inflation over the past year for a market basket of goods and services tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS measures changes in average prices from the third quarter of 2003 to the third quarter of 2004, using the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

This COLA will be the largest in four years, since a 3.5 percent adjustment in January 2001. Last January's COLA was 2.4 percent.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centennial, CO 80123, a 12-month e-mail address: write@vfw.org or visit www.militaryupdate.com



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Senior Airman Ted Braxton, postal clerk, seals a box containing absentee ballots at the Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, post office Tuesday. Military post offices throughout Europe are giving the ballots special handling to ensure overseas voters' voices are heard. U.S. Air Forces in Europe post offices will even send the ballots via express mail beginning Sunday.

Voting: Despite military's effort, many still not voting

VOTING, FROM PAGE 3

As of Thursday, military mail handlers in U.S. Air Forces in Europe had mailed processed about 34,000 absentee ballots, including those from civilians and family members. Air Force postal workers sent an additional 2,000 ballots to people who have changed addresses, deployed, or have improperly listed their mailing information.

The Navy in Europe has sent in about 6,700 absentee ballots, according to Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Braun, commander, Navy Region Europe spokeswoman.

The Army has mailed 27,423 ballots back to the States, according to Michael Toltzmann, spokesman for U.S. Army Europe.

Of USAREUR's 62,000 active-duty troops, about 15,500 are deployed. Figures on how many of those deployed troops may have sent in absentee ballots was not available.

The overall military absentee balloting process was criticized anew this week when two Democratic House members accused the Pentagon of failing to meet its responsibility of helping overseas voters get their ballots out, according to an Associated Press report.

About 27 million military members and their dependents overseas worldwide are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., on Tuesday asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate problems

in the absentee voting system. They cited numerous complications, including a short-lived Internet voting project that was abandoned because of security concerns; a reported shortage of absentee ballot request forms; e-mail and fax balloting systems the Democrats said were being handled by a private contractor with questionable experience; and blockage of a federal government Web site that Americans living abroad can use to request absentee ballots, because of hacking concerns, the AP reported.

That Web site, has since been restored, and voters who received a ballot but never received one can use the On-Line Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. That ballot, which includes federal offices only, is available at www.fvap.gov/pubs/online-fvap.html.

In addition, 25 states are prepared to receive ballots by fax. Voters should contact their county officials or voting assistance officers for more information, said Maj. Brett Lindsey, voting action officer for U.S. Army Europe.

If voters choose the express mail route, they'll be able to track the ballot's progress to its address using the express mail receipt and the Internet.

"We've been trying to discourage procrastination, but most states will accept ballots if they are postmarked by Election Day," Hammant said. "Mail them now. Why wait?"

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.stripsides.osd.mil. Stripes reporter Scott Schaefer in Rota, Spain, and Jessica Inigo in Darmstadt, Germany, contributed to this report.

Army promotes female role in 'units of action'

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army is considering whether to formally include women to its new "units of action" structure — which includes combat units — a discussion that had opponents of women in combat up in arms.

Under a 10-year-old ban, women are not allowed to be part of combat units, such as armored cavalry or the infantry.

The Army has no intention of altering the ban against women in combat positions, according to Lt. Col. Chris Rodney, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

But as the war on terror has shown, from the Sept. 11 attacks to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, this conflict has no "front lines" from which women can be protected from combat.

Anywhere, at any time, can quickly become a front line, military and U.S. government leaders often point out.

To accommodate this new style

Women in support divisions may breach 10-year ban

of combat, which requires fast, flexible and often very violent responses, the Army is in the middle of "transforming" itself: a plan that places the emphasis on "units of action," self-contained, self-reliant brigade combat teams that will replace the traditional large, cumbersome divisions.

Part of those "UAs," according to Rodney said, are "Forward Support Companies" that would be a regular part of the Units of Action.

"The bottom line is, there is no intent right now to lift the ban on women in direct combat units," Rodney said. "There has been no change to the current policy, and there is no intent to reverse the ban."

And the issue of whether to permit women in units including women part of combat units, however, is under discussion only, Rodney said.

"Nothing is final," Rodney said.

However, there is more to the issue, first reported by The Washington Times on Friday: There is a clause in the ban signed by then-Defense Secretary Les Aspin that says women are not allowed to serve "where units and positions are doctrinally required to physically collocate and remain with direct ground combat units that are closed to women."

But women are not banned from such tasks as driving trucks, working in mess halls, repairing helicopters, and other jobs that either hold the potential for enemy attacks, or require close proximity to combat units.

And because combat units cannot do their jobs without maintenance and other support assistance, "there have been support units attached to maneuver units" in both Afghanistan and Iraq that include women, Rodney pointed out.

The difference is that such

units are temporarily "attached," to the combat units they support, not permanently assigned.

The plan under discussion by the Army would make such support units a regular part of a Unit of Action, Rodney confirmed.

For now, several female soldiers are assigned to the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, which supports the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry at Forward Operating Base McKenize, Iraq.

The 1-4 Cavalry is responsible for a large area that includes Samarra, one of the more restive cities in central Iraq.

But Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness in Livonia, Mich., and a leading opponent of women in combat, expressed surprise to hear that female soldiers are, in fact, attached to combat units in Iraq.

Donnelly said that Congress must be informed 30 legislative days (approximately three

months) of any changes the Army is considering making to the statute.

"It remains to be seen, definitively, if the Army is violating the law," Donnelly said. "For any official in the Army to disregard that law would certainly be a serious matter."

Civilian leaders in the Office of the Secretary of Defense have already been informed of the new "lower-level meetings," according to an Army officer who asked not to be named because participating in such meetings are not part of their responsibilities.

"There are regular meetings that discuss transformation, and this is one of many things that is being looked at," the officer said. And Congress "will certainly be consulted if and when" the Army decides it would like to make any changes to the current rules, the officer said.

Since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, at least 793 combat deaths have been female soldiers.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@starsandstripes.com

Hostage begs Blair not to send troops to Baghdad

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Margaret Hassan, the kidnapped British aid worker who has spent 30 years helping deliver food and medicine in Iraq, made a heart-wrenching appeal for her life Friday, begging Prime Minister Tony Blair not to send troops to Baghdad because "this might be my last hours."

"Please help me, please help me," Hassan, a British-Irish-Iraqi national who heads the Care International operation in Iraq, said in a videotape broadcast by Al-Jazeera television.

The British government agreed Thursday to a U.S. request to transfer 850 British soldiers from southern Iraq to the Baghdad area to free American forces from new offensives against the insurgents.

Blair's decision drew strong criticism from within his own Labour party, and Hassan's desperate appeal is likely to stoke opposition among the British public, where support for the Iraq mission has never been as strong as in the United States.

"That's why people like Mr. Bigley and myself are being caught," Hassan said, referring to British hostage Kenneth Bigley who was abducted this month. "And maybe we will die like Mr. Bigley. Please, please, I beg of you."

Iraqi extremists have often subjected foreign hostages to such humiliating performances, exploiting their agony to win concessions from their employers or governments, stir up opposition U.S.-led operations in Iraq and win support within the Muslim world.

Unlike most previous hostage cases, however, this one featured no hooded gunmen, no banners

identifying the militant group and no explicit demands for the captive's freedom. Al-Jazeera said it received the tape Friday but did not say where or how.

Hassan, who is married to an Iraqi, was seized by gunmen Tuesday while traveling to her office in western Baghdad. She appeared in the Friday tape wearing what appeared to be a robe or house dress.

A tape released on the day of her abduction showed her wearing a white blouse.

Hassan, believed to be in her early 60s, began working for CARE International soon after it began operations here in 1991. She managed a staff of 60 Iraqis who run nutrition, health and water programs throughout the country.

She was a vocal opponent of international sanctions on Iraq and warned British lawmakers before last year's U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that a conflict could produce a humanitarian crisis in a country already severely weakened by the embargoes.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw described the videotape as "extremely distressing" and called for Hassan's immediate release.

"Margaret is a woman who has lived in Iraq for 32 years," Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said. "She is a person who selflessly worked for the benefit of her Iraqi fellow citizens and fought for the rights of the Iraqi people for many years."

Militants have kidnapped at least seven other foreigners over the past six months, but all were later released. In September, Italian aid workers Simona Torretta and Simona Parisi, both 29, were kidnapped from their Baghdad offices but were freed three weeks later.

By contrast, at least 30 foreign



Margaret Hassan, the kidnapped director of CARE International in Iraq, appears in this image made from television in a videotape aired by the Arabic television station Al-Jazeera, on Friday. Hassan is seen weeping and pleading for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to withdraw troops from Iraq and not bring them to Baghdad.

male hostages have been killed, including three Americans beheaded by their captors. Insurgents, however, have targeted Iraqi women working for the Americans or their allies, including an ambush Thursday on a bus carrying female airline employees on their way to work at Baghdad airport.

More than 150 foreigners have been abducted — with more than 100 killed — and Hassan is the most prominent figure to be swept up in the kidnapping campaign. She is widely known for her charity work in the Middle East, was born in Dublin and was naturalized as an Iraqi after marrying an Iraqi man.

Evan F. Kohlmann, a terrorism expert in Washington, D.C., noted that Hassan was abducted after

Britain and the United States refused to release women prisoners as demanded by Bigley's kidnappers.

"You shame our women, we shame your women," he said in a telephone. "Women and children are supposed to be off the target list. When they are taken and killed in such a horrible way, it strikes a particular chord, there's no doubt."

Bigley's kidnappers identified themselves as the Hashemiyah of Tawhid and Jihad, Iraq's most feared extremist group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Bigley was kidnapped on Sept. 16 along with two Americans, who were beheaded within days. Unlike those of the Americans, Bigley's body has not been found.

Associated Press correspondent Raywa Ragh contributed to this report

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,103 servicemen and women of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count matches the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 965 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- None reported.
- The latest identification reported by the military:
 - Army Spc. Andrew C. Ehrlich, 21, Mesa, Ariz., died Monday in Muqadadiyah, Iraq, of non-combat injuries, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

MIDEAST UPDATE

Ward Sanderson

GI recalls positive prisoner relationship

Abu Ghraib prison has been in the news again, with Iraq's Ministry of Justice now handling almost all of the duties surrounding the release of prisoners.

That new development jarred the memory for one officer serving at Forward Operating Base Hawk near Baghdad, where release ceremonies are held.

First Lt. Murugan Palani of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment arrested a suspected insurgent early this year.

"The guy didn't fight back — he pretty much gave up and went along with the troops.

The troops didn't rough him up then, either.

"He knew he was a bad guy," Palani said.

Fast forward to June, four months later.

Palani is working at Hawk during a prison release ceremony.

And there appears his former prisoner, newly sprung from Abu Ghraib.

He was thinner (Palani said he thought for the better) and immediately picked out the man who originally nabbed him.

"He came up to me and shook my hand," Palani said, smiling in disbelief as he tells the story.

"He was happy to see me."

Stranger in these parts

Troops of the 1st Cav's 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, near Baghdad, are still telling the story of the Iraqi Texan.

It seems that three months ago,



WAYNE MARLOW/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Pfc. Chad Boxell repairs a Humvee engine at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora in Iraq. Boxell, a mechanic from Mansfield, La., helps keep the light-wheeled vehicles moving for the 1st Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment. The unit is from Schweinfurt, Germany.

they were asked to talk to Iraqi cops about springing an alcohol distributor from jail.

The guy was an Arab, perhaps Iraqi, but had a U.S. green card.

It seemed the man had left Texas for Iraq hoping to set up shop in a way consistent with the Old West of yesteryear. He'd

bring booze to the parched desert.

So the man rented a fleet of trucks and began hauling liquor, beer or both into the country.

But locals heard about it and didn't like it.

They attacked his convoy and destroyed his cargo and the

trucks, too.

When the company that owned the trucks found out, they demanded that the Texan cough up the value of the trucks.

The Texan didn't have the cash.

The trucking company then allegedly abducted him.

But using his frontier smarts, the Texan persuaded his captors to let him go.

He told them that he wouldn't very darn well get the money for him. He was all hogtied with them now, could he?

The truckers let the Texan go.

The Texan went home — but he didn't have the cash. He and the missus decided to skip town instead.

Somehow the truckers found out, and showed up at the Texan's house before he could gitty up and go.

There was a ruckus in the yard. The law showed up and threw all the men in the custody of — or whatever it is they call it in Iraq.

The Texan's wife then asked the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment to get the husband sprung.

The troops who talked to Stars and Stripes weren't sure how this all ended up, but they hope he found his way back to the States, where they don't mess with Texans.

Caped crusaders

Your correspondent told a U.S. soldier that the black armor civilians such as security guards and journalists wear makes them look like members of the X-Men.

The guy snickered.

He has to wear a dome of a helmet, a flak vest, big lace-up boots and sometimes one of those CamelBak water tanks.

"I look like a Ninja Turtle," he shot back.

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mil.estripes.osd.mil

U.S. official: Insurgents infiltrate Iraqi forces, get money for attacks

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iraq's new security forces are heavily infiltrated by insurgents, and the guerrilla groups have access to almost unlimited money to pay for deadly attacks, according to a U.S. defense official who provided new details on the evolution of the rebels.

A significant part of the insurgents' money is coming from sympathizers in Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi government is neglecting the problem, said the official, who was authorized by the Pentagon to speak on the issue this week, but only on condition of anonymity.

Money is flowing into Iraq through Syria, the official said.

In both cases, it comes from a diffuse network of supporters, funneled through charities, tribal relations, and businesses — not necessarily the same funding networks that transfer money to al-Qaida from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, but following a similar model, the official said.

Saudi government officials have repeatedly said they are cracking down on money networks that support terrorism, but their focus has been primarily on stopping al-Qaida, not the Iraqi resistance. A spokes-

man for the Saudi Embassy in Washington did not return a call seeking comment Thursday.

Some experts called the money trail new evidence that the Iraqi resistance has gained support in the Arab world.

Some experts called the money trail new evidence that the Iraqi resistance has gained support in the Arab world.

"The overall resistance in Iraq is popular and is getting more popular in the Arab world," said Vince Canistraro, a former counterterrorism chief for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of a defense analyst in Washington, said the U.S. government has presented little evidence to support its claims of notable foreign involvement in Iraqi insurgency, be it from Syria, Iran or Saudi Arabia.

"You get a different story from virtually every official," Cordesman said. Any money flowing to terrorist groups from the Arabian peninsula more likely would pass through banks in Europe, making it difficult for Arab governments to track, he said.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said recently that an upswing in casualties reflected a more effective Iraqi insurgency.

"The enemy is becoming more sophisticated," Myers said.

Army reservist to stand trial in Abu Ghraib scandal

BY TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A military judge Friday ordered a U.S. Army reservist to stand trial Jan. 7 in Baghdad for allegedly abusing Iraq inmates at the Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad.

Spc. Charles Graner Jr., 36, of Uniontown, Pa., has been charged with conspiracy to maltreat detainees, dereliction of duty, maltreatment of prisoners, assault, committing indecent acts, obstruction of justice and adultery.

The judge, Col. James Pohl, set the trial date during a hearing in which he turned down a defense motion to grant immunity to several people to testify without fear of incrimination.

The list included Col. Thomas Pappas, the commander of the Military Intelligence Brigade assigned to Abu Ghraib when the offenses allegedly occurred. The low-ranking soldiers charged in the case maintain they were acting on orders of Military Intelligence to "soften up" prisoners for interrogation.

Pohl also ordered another pre-trial hearing in the Graner case to be held here Dec. 3.

Graner's adultery charge stems from a relationship with another soldier accused in the Abu Ghraib scandal, Pfc. Lynndie England.

She was sent back to the United States before the scandal broke in April and gave birth to Graner's son this month at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The judge also is expected to decide on a trial date for Sgt. Javal Davis, who also has been charged in the abuses, later Thursday.

The two men are among seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company of Crepsatown, Maryland charged in the scandal. Spc. Jeremy C. Sivilits of Hyndman, Pennsylvania, is already serving a one-year sentence after pleading guilty in May to three counts. In addition, Spc. Armin Cruz, 24, a military intelligence soldier, was sentenced last month to eight months, a reduction in rank and a dishonorable discharge for his part in the scandal.

Levin: Pentagon ignored CIA on Iraq/al-Qaida link

Senator says policy office exaggerated ties

By KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRAEDER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top Senate Democrat is alleging that a Pentagon policy office ignored corrections requested by the CIA on information linking Iraq to al-Qaida, renewing complaints about the Bush administration's handling of intelligence before the Iraq invasion.

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, argued in a report released Thursday that high-level Pentagon officials exaggerated the intelligence on the Iraq-al-Qaida connection to support the Bush administration's goal of removing then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The White House, which declined to comment on the report, had denied in the past that intelligence was misused or manipulated.

Republican senators noted the report was issued just before the Nov. 2 elections.

Levin and the committee's Democratic staff examined the intelligence role of a Pentagon policy-making operation, focusing on its involvement in the administration's case about the purported links between Hussein and al-Qaida. The office is run by Defense Undersecretary for Policy Douglas Feith.

Levin's report says Feith's work was not related to strategy or policy recommendations, as would be expected, but rather "selective reinterpretations of in-

telligence" on Saddam's ties to al-Qaida.

The Pentagon has maintained that Feith's operation was not an intelligence outfit, but a policy shop, and that its work was appropriate.

In a statement Thursday, the Pentagon said bipartisan reports have noted relationships between al-Qaida and Iraq before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

The statement also said a Senate Intelligence Committee investigation this summer found "no evidence that administration officials tried to coerce, influence or pressure intelligence analysts to change their judgments about Iraq's WMD capabilities or links to terrorism."

In his report, Levin said the CIA requested a number of corrections to a memo written by Feith and provided to some senators in 2003.

But, Levin's report says, crucial changes requested by the CIA were not made, including adequate alterations to information about the credibility of a Iraq-al-Qaida link. Levin suggests the changes would have weakened evidence of a link.

The CIA declined to comment.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, called Levin's report "a partisan effort to influence the election."



Levin

Iraqi religious leaders atop pre-election polls

By ROBIN WRIGHT

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Leaders of Iraq's religious parties have emerged as the country's most popular politicians and would win the largest share of votes if an election were held today, while the U.S.-backed government of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi is losing serious ground, according to a U.S.-financed poll by the International Republican Institute.

More than 45 percent of Iraqis also believe that their country is heading in the wrong direction, and 41 percent say it is moving in the right direction.

Within the Bush administration, a victory by Iraq's religious parties is viewed as the worst-case scenario. Washington has hoped that Allawi and the current team, which was selected by U.S. and U.N. envoys, would win or do well in Iraq's first democratic election, in January. U.S. officials led a secular government before by moderates in critical, in part because the new government will oversee writing a new Iraq constitution.

"The picture it paints is that, after all the blood and treasure we've spent and despite the [U.S.-led] occupation's democracy efforts, we're in a position now that the moderates would not win if an election were held

today," said a U.S. official who requested anonymity because the poll has not been released.

U.S. officials acknowledge that the political honeymoon after the handover of political power on June 28 ended much earlier than anticipated. The new poll, based on 2,000 face-to-face interviews conducted among all ethnic and religious groups nationwide between Sept. 24 and Oct. 4, shows that Iraqi support for the government has plummeted to about 45 percent who believe it is effective, down from 62 percent in a late-summer poll.

A senior State Department official played down the results. "When the interim government took over, the [poll] numbers were artificially high. It's very difficult to meet expectations when they're sky high," he said on condition of anonymity because the data are still being analyzed.

But in another blow, one out of three Iraqis blames the U.S.-led multinational force for Iraq's security problems, slightly more than the 32 percent who blame foreign terrorists, the poll shows. Only 8 percent blame members of the former regime.

Asked if their households had been hurt by violence, injuries, death or monetary loss over the past year, only 22 percent of those questioned said yes — a figure that surprised pollsters and U.S. officials.

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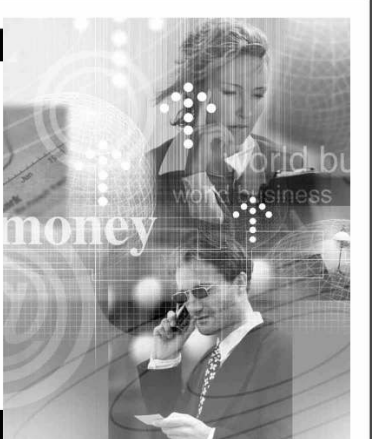
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IN THE STATES

10 more FluMist doses being made

BY DIEDTRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Maryland manufacturer will provide an additional 1 million doses of its FluMist vaccine, making a total of 3 million doses of the nasal spray available, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said Thursday, as officials tried to deal with a shortage of flu shots.

However, FluMist, which contains weakened live virus, cannot be used by those at highest risk for flu complications. It is only approved for healthy people ages 5 to 49.

Thompson encouraged health care workers and people who care for high-risk individuals to use the nasal spray.

"It is safe. It is protective and people should avail themselves of that opportunity," Thompson said.

Federal officials had hoped to offer 100 million doses of flu vaccine this year after more than 80 million Americans sought doses last year and 152 children died from the flu.

But in early October, manufacturer Chiron Corp. was barred from shipping between 46 million and 48 million doses to the United States because of contamination at its Liverpool, England, plant.

Federal officials began searching for additional flu vaccine, asking existing suppliers if they could provide more and asking producers around the world if they had surplus.

On Tuesday, Thompson announced Aventis Pasteur had scrambled to provide 2.6 million extra flu shots, for a total of 58 million doses.

Between injected and inhaled vaccines and antiviral drugs, enough medicine will be available to treat 100 million people this flu season, officials said. Federal authorities have asked healthy adults to forgo vaccination to leave shots for those at greatest risk: the very young, the very old and people with chronic illnesses.

Gaithersburg, Md.-based MedImmune has the capacity to make 20 million doses of FluMist. Dr.



Steve Wilgen, 11, receives a flu shot Thursday from Mary Pacenti at Park Clinic in Livingston, Mont. With flu shots in short supply, the company that makes FluMist nasal spray announced Thursday that it would make available an additional 1 million doses of its vaccine.

Jim Young, president of research and development, testified before Congress that the company discarded 4 million unused doses of its 5 million doses last year. The company scaled back production this year to 2 million doses.

It restarted its plant this fall to boost this year's production. Beginning the first week of November through early December, MedImmune expects to ship 400,000 doses per week, said David Mott, MedImmune president.

Next year, the company expects to ramp up production to yield 8 million to 10 million doses of the nasal spray.

Frst defends lawmakers' vaccinations

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Thursday that lawmakers on Capitol Hill who received flu shots in his office were either following federal guidelines or their own doctors' recommendations.

Frist was responding to criticism that his office was used as a makeshift clinic to administer shots to lawmakers two days after the government asked healthy adults to forgo the vaccinations because of a nationwide shortage.

"They keep mentioning my name as if I had done something exceptional, when I hadn't," Frist said.

He claimed the presidential campaign of Democrat John Kerry is blowing the issue out of proportion for "political gain" and suggested trial lawyers, like Kerry's running mate John Edwards, contributed to the shortage with lawsuits against vaccination makers. The Kerry campaign pointed out that Frist and other GOP luminaries were getting the shots while the Bush administration was telling the rest of the country to be calm.

Two hikers rescued from El Capitan

BY BEN MARGOT

The Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Rangers rappelled down Yosemite's most forbidding peak and then carefully climbed back up the sheer 3,200-foot face of the snowy mountain, rescuing two climbers and carrying the bodies of two others on their backs.

The dramatic rescue Thursday on El Capitan came as other rescue teams airlifted out nearly two dozen other hikers and climbers stranded across the Sierra Nevada by an early winter storm, gusts brought whitout conditions and 50 mph wind gusts as it dumped several feet of snow.

Two teams of rangers were dropped off by a helicopter and spent the night in deep snow on the top of El Capitan before beginning their rescue and recovery effort Thursday morning, after the weather finally cleared.

One group rappelled down to recover the bodies of a Japanese man and woman. They're already dead when a helicopter crew managed to fly close enough late Wednesday to spot their bodies, blue and dripping with icicles, as they dangled from their ropes about two-thirds of the way up the precipice.

The Japanese climbers had been ill-prepared for the weather, a ranger said. A helicopter crew lowered each body into yellow mountain-elevator bags, then strapped into harnesses and carried up hundreds of feet by a pair of rangers, said Jen Nersesian, a park spokeswoman.

The other team, using ropes secured to thick pine trees on top of the mountain, rescued a pair of climbers who had been told to stay put overnight on a portable ledge secured high above the valley floor. Each were hoisted in harnesses. "They're cold and they're tired but they're in fine condition," said Nersesian.

A helicopter crew then airlifted them and the bodies of the dead climbers to the valley floor late Thursday afternoon.

Another climber had been rescued off the mountain Wednesday, and two more men who initially



Rescue workers rappel down the face of El Capitan from the summit Thursday during an effort to save the surviving climbers caught by an unexpected blizzard on the face of the mountain in Yosemite National Park, Calif.

said they could finish their climb themselves may have changed their minds Thursday afternoon. "They may spend the night on the wall. If they want a rescue, we'll do everything we can to get them down," Nersesian said.

A half-mile high and a mile wide, El Capitan casts an imposing shadow over the glacier-sculpted Yosemite Valley. Most climbers need three or four days to make it to the top.

Four other missing hikers were rescued from Yosemite's Ansel Adams Wilderness, while another two who had been spotted by a helicopter crew Wednesday were airlifted out Thursday, along with their dog.

Ex-employee opens fire at Missouri conveyor belt factory, injuring one

BY BETSY TAYLOR

The Associated Press

EARTH CITY, Mo. — A former employee walked into a conveyor belt factory and opened fire before officers confined him to a small storage area, prompting a seven-hour standoff that ended with the man's surrender, authorities said.

One person suffered minor injuries in the shooting that began about 3 p.m. Thursday at Beltservice Corp., police spokesman Mason Keller said. At one point, the gunman reloaded his shotgun in a parking lot before re-entering the building, he said.

Officers confined the gunman to a storage area, where he negotiated with police by telephone for several hours.

"A little after 10 p.m., the guy put down the gun and came out to

police," Keller said. The suspect's name was not released.

Company co-founder and chairman Dick Engelsmann said 110 employees were in the building at the time of the shooting, and all were evacuated.

The wounded employee, 61-year-old Jake Lewman, was struck in the leg. He was treated and released from a hospital.

One plant worker said he knew the shooter and that the man was having personal problems and missing too many days at work when he was fired about a year ago.

"He told me if he lost his job he wouldn't be able to support his family," Marcus Jordan said.

The Beltservice factory is in an industrial area west of St. Louis, near the training facility of the St. Louis Rams football team.

Associated Press Writer Jim Suhr contributed to this report.

Law enforcement officers watch the Beltservice Corp. plant in Earth City, Mo., on Thursday after a former employee entered the business with a gun and opened fire.



Bush, Kerry fight to finish in swing states

The Associated Press

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — President Bush is unveiling sharp new criticism aimed at Sen. John Kerry's positions on national security and domestic concerns as he tries to win over Pennsylvania, a state he lost in 2000 and shore up support in two that he won. Kerry, meanwhile, took his campaign to Wisconsin.

Bush was making the 41st visit of his presidency to Pennsylvania on Friday before moving on to Ohio and Florida. All are critical to the Nov. 2 election. Pennsylvania

is the only one of the three that Bush lost to Democrat Al Gore in 2000.

Bush planned to renew his criticism of health care, education and other policies supported by his Democratic rival while speaking at a rally in Wilkes-Barre, in northeastern Pennsylvania, campaign spokesman Scott Stanzel said. The president was to appear later at an event in Canton, in northeast Ohio, before attending a private fund-raising dinner in St. Petersburg, Fla., another hotly contested state.

Kerry was to have a late morning campaign appearance in Milwaukee.

A new poll of likely voters in Pennsylvania found 51 percent supporting Kerry and 46 percent favoring Bush with 4 percent undecided. The Quinnipiac University Polling Institute said its survey also tallied registered voters, showing Kerry with 47 percent, Bush with 41 percent and one in 10 undecided.

Pennsylvania is among the yet undecided states that are key to the election, with 21 of the 270 electoral votes a candidate needs to win the presidency. Ohio has 20 electoral votes; Florida, 27; and Wisconsin, 10.

States' electoral votes are relative to population, and in nearly every state, the winner, no matter what the margin, is awarded all the state's electoral votes.

Neither Bush nor Kerry has been able to gain a clear advantage.

Republican Sen. John McCain, said Friday he disagreed with Bush's assertion that Kerry had "a fundamental misunderstanding" of the war in Iraq but praised his support for Bush as "better qualified than Kerry to lead the United States in the war on terrorism, which McCain called "the transcendent issue of our time."

Latest poll shows candidates in statistical dead heat

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many voters are dissatisfied with Presi-

dent Bush's job performance but uneasy about Democrat John Kerry's ability to protect the nation, according to an Associated Press

poll that found the two presidential candidates locked in a tie.

"The country is looking for a real leader — an FDR or a Kennedy," said Warren Hutchinson, an independent from Massachusetts who leans toward Kerry. "There don't seem to be any on the horizon."

Many voters believe Bush is better qualified to protect the country — an important attribute for an electorate very focused on national security. A majority consider Kerry indecisive, less solid on national security. But Kerry is seen as stronger on creating jobs.

Neither candidate has been able to gain a clear advantage. In the survey of 976 likely voters, Demo-

On the issues



Do you rule out a draft over the next four years?

President Bush



"Yes, I am committed to keeping participation in the United States Armed

Services voluntary.

Recruitment and retention rates remain strong, and the military has not had any problem maintaining a capable force. We will not have a draft so long as I'm the president. In order to win

the war on terror, we must ensure that our troops are highly skilled and specialized, and that they are trained and equipped to successfully complete their missions. The all-volunteer Army allows us to attract the strongest, capable, and skilled force that we need, which is why the all-volunteer Army is working superbly."

Sen. John Kerry



"I oppose reinstating the draft, and I am committed to an all volunteer military, and I'll have a foreign

policy that brings allies to our side to share the burden around the world. I have a plan to expand the all-volunteer active duty Army by 40,000 soldiers,

Not by draft, and not to increase the number of soldiers in Iraq, but to add new volunteer soldiers trained and ready to meet new threats and relieve the strain on our troops. My plan will bring more of our soldiers. Guardsmen and Reservists back home to their families and get them time for the new training they need."

AP

crats Kerry and Sen. John Edwards had 49 percent, compared to 46 percent for Republicans Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. That's within the margin of error of 3 percentage points for the poll conducted Oct. 18-20.

Almost one in five, 17 percent, of voters remain the target of nonstop campaigning by Bush and Kerry, the AP-Ipsos poll found.

These persuadable voters say they're undecided or are tentatively backing a candidate while remaining open to changing their minds.

They are more likely than others to disapprove of Bush's job performance and believe invading Iraq was a mistake. And they are more likely than other voters to believe the nation is on the wrong track, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

More in this group lean toward Kerry than Bush. But persuadable voters backing Kerry are more likely to switch sides than those backing Bush and they're more likely to trust Bush than Kerry to protect the nation.

"Kerry spent his whole time in the debates saying, 'your president has not done this or done that,' instead of saying what he would do as president," said Lau-

rie Anuszkiewicz, a spokeswoman from Beckley, W. Va.

Some surveys have found that a majority of voters saying they're concerned about the risks of changing presidents at a time of terrorist threats and war.

"I'm pretty sure I'll vote for Kerry," said Mary Anne Connolly of Middletown, N.J. "It's more that I don't want Bush. I'm still not comfortable with Kerry. I'm not sure he's real strong on foreign policy."

Despite doubts about Kerry on national security and strength of leadership, Bush hasn't been able to pull away from the Democrat.

Less than half of likely voters in the AP-Ipsos poll, 47 percent, approve of Bush's job performance.

Some 56 percent of likely voters believe the nation is on the wrong track, another warning sign. By an 18-point margin, voters believe Kerry would be best at creating jobs. They are evenly split on who would do the best job on Iraq. The president fares better on national security issues like terrorism. A majority of likely voters approve of Bush's handling of the war on terror and foreign policy. By 7 percentage points, more believe he would do a better job than Kerry of protecting the country; Bush had a 23-point advantage in March.

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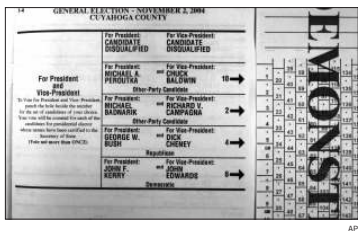
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A Cuyahoga County Absent Voter Ballot Book, left, and an Absentee Punch-card Ballot from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, are shown. Confusion over the layout of the punch-card has led to complaints and concerns that people will inadvertently vote for other than the presidential candidate they intended, because it does not align with the ballot book.

Confusion clouds Ohio absentee ballot format

Decision on provisional votes awaits appeal

BY CONNIE MABIN

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Absentee voters in the most populous county of a critical state in the presidential election are complaining about a ballot layout that they say might prompt some people to choose the wrong candidate, or none at all.

Another voting issue was left in limbo for Ohioans Wednesday when a federal judge rejected Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell's latest order on how to handle people who try to vote in the wrong precinct. The dispute means election boards may receive two sets of orders as they wait for an appeals court to rule.

The absentee voting problem in Cuyahoga County occurs when voters align the ballot portion, which shows a candidate's name, a number and an arrow, with the punch card, which also bears numbers.

The pieces are designed to align in the voting machines used on Election Day, but the numbers don't always line up for people voting absentee.

The elections board in the traditionally Democratic county has fielded numerous calls from voters about confusion about the layout of absentee ballots.

The county, which includes Cleveland, is receiving more than 2,000 requests for absentee bal-

lots every day. Both presidential campaigns have focused on the county in a state both candidates consider crucial to what's expected to be a close election Nov. 2.

If absentee voters cast their vote by trying to line up the arrow with the punch card, they could punch the wrong number. "It's incredibly confusing," said Aaron Greenspan, a 21-year-old absentee voter from Shaker Heights. "Every day that goes by, more people are going to send in these ballots and more of them are guaranteed to be wrong."

Absentee voters are supposed to ignore the arrows and punch out the chad that matches the candidate's number, Jacqueline Maiden, a coordinator with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, said Wednesday.

In the statewide voting issue, U.S. District Judge James Carr of Toledo rejected an order from the secretary of state in which voters would be informed their entire ballot could be thrown out if they vote in the wrong precinct.

Carr gave Blackwell a revised order in which voters would be told that only their ballots for federal races — including the president — will be counted if they vote in the wrong place.

Election boards may soon receive both versions of the order as Ohio waits for a ruling from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

tionable campaign contributions and missing federal election funds.

Now, his critics are wondering whether the 48-year-old Democrat can be trusted to manage a presidential election in the nation's most populous state.

The deepening controversy has

Ruling restricts counting of provisional ballots in Florida

BY DAVID ROYSE

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The state must reject provisional ballots if they are cast in the wrong precinct, a federal judge said Thursday in the latest in a series of opinions on how such votes should be counted.

U.S. District Judge Robert L. Hinkle ruled voters who show up at a polling place and aren't on the rolls should be allowed to submit a provisional ballot — in case it's later determined they were in the properly assigned precinct.

A provisional ballot does not require the state to count the ballot if it's determined the voter submitted the ballot somewhere other than the assigned precinct.

A provisional ballot is held until officials determine if the person was entitled to vote. If the voter should have been allowed to vote, the ballot counts; if not, it's thrown out.

The ruling comes in a case brought by Democrats, who wanted the judge to block Secretary of State Glenda Hood from ordering that provisional ballots be tallied only if they were cast in the correct precinct.

Hood spokeswoman Alia Faraj said the ruling was "a victory for all Floridians who want an orderly election" Nov. 2.

"Florida law simply requires that those who use provisional ballots be treated equally with all other voters who have to cast their ballots in their assigned precinct," Faraj said.



Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land has appealed a federal court order that forces the state to count provisional ballots cast by voters who show up in the wrong polling precinct but are in the right city, township or village.

Mark Herron, a lawyer for the Democrats, said Hinkle's ruling doesn't make sense. "You'd think people who are entitled to vote are entitled to have their ballots counted," he said.

Herron said the party hadn't decided whether to appeal.

Provisional ballots are required nationally for the first time this year. They are supposed to prevent what happened in the 2000 election, when an estimated 1.5 million registered voters were mistakenly turned away from the polls because of clerical errors or other problems.

Democrats have used in states where election officials have ruled that provisional ballots should not be considered valid if voters cast them in the wrong precinct — a potential disadvantage to poor people who tend to move more frequently.

The election officials say the measures are needed to ensure fair elections, but Democrats say it unconstitutionally disenfranchises voters who may not know their polling place.

Federal judges around the country have issued differing opinions on the matter.

In Missouri and Colorado, judges have ruled voters in the wrong place don't have to be counted.

The Florida Democratic Party had asserted prospective voters have a right to have their ballot counted whether they're at the proper polling precinct or not. Democrats argued voters in Florida are registered in a particular county, not a neighborhood.

In Mich., votes in wrong precinct, right town OK

BY DAVID EGGERT

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan election officials expressed concern Thursday that both voters and local precinct clerks may be confused on Election Day because of a federal judge's decision making it easier for voters to cast provisional ballots.

U.S. District Judge David Lawson ruled Tuesday that the Help America Vote Act says people must only show up in the right city, township or village — regardless of whether they're in the proper precinct — to have their votes for president and Congress counted.

Provisional ballots are used when voters say they are properly registered but their names are not on the registration rolls.

The state is appealing the decision, which came in a lawsuit brought by Michigan Democrats, voter-rights groups and the NAACP.

The state argues that changing course less than two weeks before the election won't end an orderly vote or timely certification of the results.

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and state Bureau of Elections Director Chris Thomas said some voters may believe their entire ballot will be counted under Lawson's ruling. But only their votes for federal officials will be tallied.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan on Thursday applauded the judge's decision but said it worries voters don't understand they won't be allowed to vote the entire ballot if they show up in the wrong polling place.

Controversy surrounding Calif. official casts doubt on elections

BY BETH FOUHY

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Secretary of State Kevin Shelley guided California through a surprisingly trouble-free recall election last year and became a national champion to voting rights activists when he sounded the alarm about the potential for fraud and other problems with electronic voting machines.

But on the eve of this year's general election, he's been mired in scandal, accused of taking ques-

tionable campaign contributions and missing federal election funds.

Now, his critics are wondering whether the 48-year-old Democrat can be trusted to manage a presidential election in the nation's most populous state.

The deepening controversy has

prompted the chairman of the nation's election oversight commission to warn that California could lose \$170 million in federal election funds.

"We have information that suggests that the state may not be as just, but, by completely delinquent in addressing some of the mandates," Election Assistance Commission Chairman DeForest B. Soaries Jr. said Wednesday, citing failures to fulfill federal requirements for boosting voter education programs and training poll workers.

Meanwhile, election officials are scrambling to process the record high number of voter registrations that have flooded the counties this year.

"People are uneasy as it is," said Bob Clark, the Alameda County registrar. "To have the state's chief election officer under investigation for so many things, the new revelations every day become a diversion."

Last year, Shelley oversaw one of the most extraordinary political melodramas in the nation's history — the recall of Gov. Gray

Davis and the election of action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger to replace him.

Shelley also became the nation's first secretary of state to require all electronic voting machines to produce paper receipts by 2006, delaying paper rights activists.

Shelley has been accused of accepting a campaign check in his state office and of taking other questionable contributions secured through a state grant he secured for a political support. The FBI was investigating.

Calendates' celebrity connections may help

By NANCY ZUCKERBROD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Clooney, Paterno, Bird, Sheen: The guest list at a party for Hollywood "A"-listers and sports legends?

No, just some of the famous names running for House seats or helping House candidates near the country.

The most talked-about is Democrat Nick Clooney, father of actor George, the former "ER" doctor and "Ocean's Eleven" star, and brother of the late singer Rosemary Clooney. Nick Clooney — famous in his own right for introducing films on American Movie Classics

"The parties are trying to come up with candidates who have something that gives them traction"

Norman Ornstein
American Enterprise Institute analyst

on the campaign trail, relatives and friends of celebrities are being tapped for races, said Norman Ornstein, an analyst with the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

"The parties are trying to come up with candidates who have something that gives them traction," said Ornstein. He referred to it as "icing on the cake, but it's never been the cake itself."

Being George Clooney's father has meant thousands of campaign dollars for Nick, with such film stars as Michael Douglas, Warren Beatty, Renee Zellweger and Drew Barrymore contributing to the Kentucky Democrat.

But aligning yourself with Hollywood's top draws also has some downsides, especially in conservative districts such as the one Clooney hopes to represent. Davis has tried to link Clooney to the liberal politics of his son and his Hollywood friends.

"Those types of views, of positions, don't sell well in this district," Davis said. Clooney said, "I don't think that will stick."

A well-known former local television anchor and newspaper columnist, Clooney said voters "know who I am, and they know where I come from."

Clooney said voters often ask about his movie star son but then move on to other matters.

George Clooney declined, through a spokesman, to comment but said in a letter to the Cincinnati Enquirer that he and his dad have political differences and that his father "has earned the right to be judged on his own merits." The actor has made several fund-raising appearances for his father in Washington and Los Angeles but has largely steered clear of campaigning in Kentucky.

Actor George Clooney, right, smiles at his father, Nick, at a movie premiere in Beverly Hills, Calif., in September 2003. The younger Clooney is supporting his father's bid for a congressional seat in Kentucky.

Attorney Scott Paterno plays up his family ties, even handing out autographed photos of his dad and leaning on him for fund-raising help. But he faces a tough challenge to unseat Holden in the central Pennsylvania district that includes Harrisburg.

Republican Rep. Robin Hayes of North Carolina and John Hostettler of Indiana also are thought to be on pretty safe ground, even though their Democratic opponents have received help from the likes of Sheen and Bird.

Troottman recently campaigned in a North Carolina mill town with Sheen, and while cast members have donated money to her candidacy, Hayes had nearly \$1 million on hand, compared to roughly \$400,000 Troottman had at the end of September.

Jennings, a Midwest scout for the Celtics, has outlasted Hostettler with the help of Bird and others, but political observers still consider Jennings the underdog.

"A candidate's connection to fame or notoriety is a mixed bag in most cases," said Greg Speed, a spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "Sometimes it helps. Sometimes it hurts. More often than not these races are decided on other factors."

Rains dampen Calif. fire hazards

By TIM MOLLOY
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With recent heavy rain and more expected next week, California may make it through this season without a repeat of last year's catastrophic wildfires. But dangers remain, especially in national forests plagued by drought, unchecked growth of brush and bark beetle infestation.

Fire season will end Monday in Central and Northern California, but drier Southern California may be more at risk, said Karen Terrill, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Forestry.

"We haven't made a decision yet regarding closing fire season in Southern California," she said. But this good soaking rain in many areas lessens the fire danger.

Wildfires across Southern California last fall blanketed 750,000 acres, with 20 people killed and destroying more than 3,000 homes.

The region has so far escaped a replay of the disaster, despite previous warnings that this could be

"We just bought a year's time, that's all that happened."

Richard Minnick
University of California,
Riverside, professor

come one of the most dangerous fire seasons in history.

In San Bernardino National Forest, hundreds of thousands of dead trees are clustered together outside cities like Lake Arrowhead and Idyllwild. The area has been hit by several years of drought and a bark beetle infestation. At least a third of the forest is dead.

The fire ecologist suggested homeowners in the area take advantage of the rain this year to hack away dead trees and prepare for the next round of wildfires.

"We just bought a year's time, that's all that happened," said Richard Minnick, a professor at the University of California, Riverside.

On Wednesday, officials reopened some areas of the San Bernardino National Forest that had been closed due to fire danger. Angeles National Forest was also reopened after 90 percent of that forest was shown to be dead.

The San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountain ranges received from 5 to 10 inches of rain this week, with isolated parts of the San Bernardino Mountains getting up to 14 inches, according to the National Weather Service.

"It's definitely pretty wet out there. It looks like we're going to be able to escape October without any fire, with isolated parts where we go, the closer we are to winter," said Steven Vandenberg, a National Weather Service meteorologist. "It's a little better than what we have it is, there's not too much to worry about," he said.

Mass murderer executed

RALEIGH, N.C. — A man convicted of six slayings in North Carolina was executed early Friday.

Charles Wesley Roache, 30, had drawn all but a mandatory appeal on the trial record required by state law. Legal wrangling could have extended his life for up to five years, but Roache said he gave up all appeals to show his remorse to the survivors of his victims. He was pronounced dead at 2:18 a.m. of lethal injection.

Death penalty opponents argued the state shouldn't execute Roache without examining his mental fitness, but Roache asked his lawyers to do nothing to keep him alive. He also declined to seek clemency from Gov. Mike Easley, who decided Thursday night that he saw no reason to stop Roache's execution.

Roache and Christopher Wayne Lippard, 25, were convicted in the Sept. 29, 1999, shooting death in Alexander County of Chad McKinley Watt, 22. The pair then headed west to Haywood County in a stolen pickup truck. A day later, after that vehicle was struck, they went to a home near Interstate 40 to steal a car.

The Phillips family returned home from the Haywood County Fair during the robbery attempt. Earl Phillips, 72; Cora, 71; their son, Eddie, 40; daughter-in-law Mitzi, 44; and granddaughter Katie, 14, were killed.

Lippard was sentenced to life in prison at a separate trial.

Roache was the third person executed in North Carolina this year and the 33rd executed in the state since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977.

CBS: Probe of Till slaying focuses on 2

By RON HARRIST
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The reopened investigation into a brutal 1955 killing of a black teenager is focusing on the white woman the 14-year-old allegedly whistled at and a black man who worked for one of the two acquitted suspects, according to an upcoming CBS "60 Minutes" report.

In a new release Thursday promoting Sunday's broadcast, CBS said investigators are focusing on Carolyn Donham, the ex-wife of one of the men acquitted by an all-white jury of murdering Emmett Till.

Till was kidnapped from his uncle's home in Money, a tiny Mississippi Delta community, on Aug. 28, 1955, allegedly for whistling at Donham, then Carolyn Bryant. His mutilated body was found by fishermen three days later in the Tallahatchie River.

Pictures of the slaying shocked the world and became a catalyst for the civil rights movement. The two men acquitted of murdering Till — Roy Bryant and his half brother J.W. Milam — have since died.

The Justice Department announced in May that it was reopening the investigation into Till's death and would work with Mississippi prosecutors.

The cousin Till was visiting in Mississippi, Simeon Wright, told "60 Minutes" he saw Bryant and Milam about Till. Wright also said his father told him there was a woman in the truck who was thought to be Till's wife.

Donham, 70, who divorced Bryant and remarried, lives in Greenville and declined to com-

ment to CBS. Contacted at home Thursday by The Associated Press, she said, "I'm not interested."

CBS said investigators also were focusing on Henry Lee Loggins, a black man who worked for Milam. Wright said his father and other witnesses saw Loggins with the men that night.

"Our office will prosecute if there is someone out there to prosecute, depending on the investigation results, of course," Chiles said.

The FBI in Jackson on Thursday declined comment on the case.

Robert Garrity Jr., special agent in charge in Mississippi, has said the FBI wants to interview anyone with information about the case.

Revised investigations into civil rights-era killings have produced mixed results. Byron de la Beckwith was convicted a decade ago for the 1963 murder of Mississippi NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers. But there has been little progress in a movement to bring charges for the 1964 slayings of three civil rights workers.

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Soldiers did the right thing

The writer of "Just do your duty" (letter, Oct. 20) said that all missions are dangerous — and they are, so the last thing a soldier wants to do is take substantial equipment and vehicles on a dangerous mission.

You always hear: "You've got to do the right thing," and that's what the soldiers of the 343rd Quartermaster Company did.

I take comfort in the fact that my superiors would make sure that substandard equipment was not in use to begin with. There are so many of us deployed in this hostile country and I find it appalling that the writer saw fit to judge and condemn fellow soldiers.

Maybe his unit does things differently, but my unit looks out for each other and that includes each and every soldier, no matter what rank or unit. You see, there are some things that shouldn't be just "sucked up."

Sp. Tammy J. Bennett
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Going it alone is unwise

In Jack Kelly's opinion column "Closing the Gap" on "Fourth-Generation Warfare" (Oct. 18), supposedly visionary leaders have come up with yet another alternative to the traditional force. My comment:

Authors Thomas Barnett of the Naval War College and Col. Thomas Hammes have come close, but they didn't go far enough. I agree that the Pentagon needs to be overhauled for Fourth-Generation Warfare mentalities. The brass believes that they are there, through technology and special operations, but current mentalities are too heavy-handed and lack compassion and mercy. Further, Barnett and Hammes, as described by Kelly, fail to recognize one critical aspect of globalization and how it "should" affect the transformation of the U.S. force structure.

I propose we take Barnett's globalization theory and Hammes' goals to create a "system administration" force and combine them. As Gen. Creighton Abrams made more necessary to win the war, we serve forces in our nation's conflicts, so we should make it more necessary to involve our national and traditional allies within

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this "system administration" force. We should leave ourselves the masters of modern battlefield tactics, but modestly reliant upon our allies.

Likened to the loss of the public's trust during Vietnam, for a go-it-alone-with-federal-troops mentality coming out of Washington, D.C., Fourth-Generation Warfare will incur global mistrust of those nations who deem it necessary to go it alone in the 21st century.

Mal. Richard Hough
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Support soldiers get the shaft

Recently the idea is being considered that non-infantry soldiers who have gone out on patrols and have been engaged in combat should be awarded "Infantry" status through on-the-job training, which is far from most soldiers' eyes.

But how about those of us who have been engaged in combat and are the "in the rear with the gear" soldiers, whose jobs don't take them outside the wire. Why can't the old rules get changed for us? Medical and Combat Medic Badge, engineers have their badge. And 11B (Infantry) soldiers have the Combat Infantry Badge.

We all went through the same training before we hit country, were told underneath it all, we are all infantry, when need be, even female soldiers.

My convo was hit three times going through Baghdad. We all fought our way through, male and female. But just because we hold support roles, we are not considered for the Combat Infantry Badge. And if memory serves me right, it takes one engagement for an infantry soldier to earn his badge.

Times change, but things change. So if non-11Bs can get on the job training to get their 11Bs, then why can't support soldiers who have been in combat earn a badge, too?

Sgt. Daniel Horan
Camp Taji, Iraq

No valid reason for war

I am baffled by those who think that the war in Iraq was a good choice. I still have not seen or heard one valid reason.

The war has swelled an endangered more lives than ever thought possible. More than 1,250 coalition forces have been killed, nearly 200 multinational contractors have been killed and many thousands of people injured, some severely.

I respect all soldiers and support for them. I was deployed in the Middle East for a year. However, this catastrophe reminds me of a gambler who has lost everything and with every spin believes he will win. How many more lives will be lost? And for what? How many innocent Iraqis? Or does anybody care?

The media lists U.S. and British deaths, and all other people killed are listed as "other." "Would anyone want to be remembered as 'other'?" Have people become immune to caring about humanity?

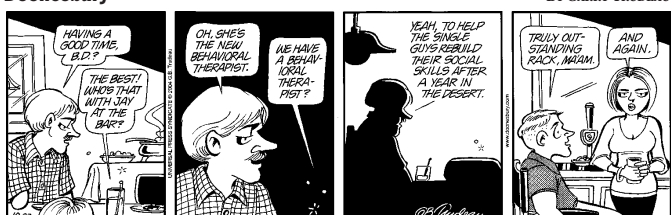
I realize that some good deeds are being done, but they are few and far between. Most of the effort is self-sustainment and security — security that has been fading fast.

I love my country and would like to see a better future for everyone. This war is not the remedy. I hope that every American citizen finds it in his heart one day to see what is really happening, and soon.

Sp. Robert Hults
Kaiserslautern, Germany

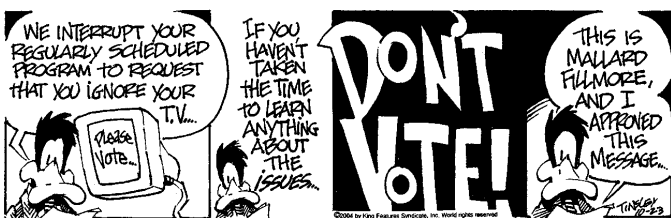
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Doonesbury



Mallard Dilemma

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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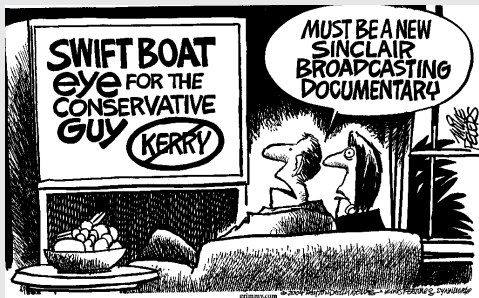
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IN THE WORLD

Fall of communism: Castro trips at ceremony



Cuba's President Fidel Castro, center, trips after a speech Wednesday at a graduation ceremony in Santa Clara, Cuba, in this image taken from television. Castro broke his left knee in eight places and suffered a hairline fracture in his left arm.

Cuban leader breaks knee, hurts arm; quick to reassert control

BY ANITA SNOW

The Associated Press

HAVANA — Demonstrating he retains firm control over Cuba after fracturing his knee and arm in a fall at a public event, President Fidel Castro told of conducting government business by cellular phone during an ambulance ride and later refusing general anesthesia.

"I have not stopped attending to the tasks that I am responsible for, in coordination with the other comrades," Castro, 78, wrote in a lengthy note read Thursday night on state television.

Castro said he underwent a 3 hour, 15 minute operation to repair his left knee, which was broken in eight places, and the immobilization of his left upper arm, which suffered a hairline fracture.

He said he remained awake the whole time, anesthetized only from the waist down, so he could "attend to numerous important issues" with his chief of staff, who dressed in surgical scrubs.

Castro said earlier he remained in contact with his office via cellular phone during the ambulance ride back to Havana from Santa Clara, the central city about a three-hour drive away where the accident occurred.

Castro's message seemed

aimed at clearing up any doubts about his ability to govern this communist nation of 11.2 million people after 45 years in power.

His advancing age — and ultimately his mortality — was brought home when he was injured Wednesday night when he tripped and fell after a speech at the Santa Clara graduation ceremony.

But Castro has fought to dispel concerns about his health and his ability to keep governing.

A medical examination early Thursday confirmed Castro suffered a broken left knee and a hairline fracture in his upper right arm, said an official notice carried by state media.

Castro's health has long been closely watched — particularly by his political enemies in Miami, home to a large Cuban exile community.

Rights activist Elizardo Sanchez of Havana predicted the incident would not immediately affect government policies, but it "does put on the agenda the theme of the advanced age of various leaders."

Average Cubans did not seem as alarmed Thursday as they were three years ago, when Castro fainted in the scorching Caribbean sun during a live televised speech before a crowd of thousands.

Survey: Quick fix for corruption not easy

The Associated Press

LONDON — Good intentions and hard work by governments don't lead to quick victories against entrenched corruption, according to the annual survey of global corruption released Wednesday by Transparency International.

Kenya, Georgia, Paraguay and Indonesia remained near the bottom of the list despite their governments' efforts to stamp out corruption.

Kenya's case dramatically illustrates the difficulties, said Peter Eigen, chairman of Transparency International.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and his National Rainbow Coalition party made fighting corruption a priority after winning power in 2002 and ending 39 years of rule by the Kenya African National Union, which was criticized for endemic corruption in its final years of power.

"Kenya is an ideal case where there seems to be commitment at the top, where people on the street are very angry about corruption, and where the intellectual preparation has been very well advanced," Eigen said in a telephone interview.

The cases of Kenya, Georgia, Paraguay, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa were the subject of a Transparency International conference last week in Kenya, Eigen said.

Transparency International's index is compiled from a series of polls on perceptions of corruption made by independent organizations. Of 146 countries in the survey, 106 scored lower than five compared with a best score of 10, the organization said.

Bangladesh, Haiti, Nigeria, Chad, Myanmar, Azerbaijan and Paraguay were perceived to be the most corrupt, all scoring lower than 2.

Finland, New Zealand, Denmark, Iceland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland were rated the least corrupt, all scoring higher than nine out of 10 on the index.

Palestinians shell Israeli settlements after airstrike kills top Hamas militant

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Defiant Palestinian militants pounded Jewish settlements in the southern Gaza Strip with mortar fire Friday, following the killing of a top Hamas militant in an Israeli airstrike.

Tens of thousands of angry Hamas supporters joined the funeral procession for Adnan al-Ghoul, 46, a founder and deputy chief of the Hamas military wing who was on Israel's most-wanted list since 1990.

Mourners and leaders of the Islamic militant group threatened revenge attacks against Israel. The group, which opposes the Jewish state's existence, has killed hundreds of Israelis in the past four years of fighting.

"Hamas is loyal to the blood of its martyrs and will continue on the path of holy war and resistance until we achieve victory by defeating the Zionists," Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, said in a rare appearance at a Gaza City mosque.

Hamas leaders have been driven underground by Israel's relentless campaign of targeted killings, including those of the group's founder and his successor this year. Israeli analysts said the killing of al-Ghoul was a major blow to Hamas because he was a top bombmaker responsible for the group's weaponry, including crude anti-tank missiles and the Qassam rockets the group has fired at Israeli communities, the army said.

Israel held al-Ghoul responsible for the deaths of dozens of its citizens, including in major suicide bombings in the 1990s. He had been in hiding for years, avoiding public appearances and media interviews, and narrowly escaped two previous attempts on his life.

Al-Ghoul's assistant, Imad Abbas, also was killed Thursday.

Following the killings, about 15 mortar rounds were fired at the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim and adjacent military posts, damaging four houses but causing no casualties. Settlers reported mortar shells falling on two other south Gaza settlements but causing no damage.



Palestinian mourners carry the coffin of Adnan al-Ghoul, a senior member of the Hamas militant group killed in an Israeli missile attack, during a Friday procession in Gaza City.

Hamas' ability to strike back at Israel has been severely weakened by a series of assassinations. Early this year, Israel killed the group's spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

A top Hamas leader based in Damascus, Syria, was killed in a car bombing last month. Israeli security officials acknowledged involvement. Most Hamas leaders in Gaza have gone into hiding.

Gaza has experienced an upsurge in violence since Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced plans earlier this year to withdraw from the volatile area. Sharon will present his withdrawal plan to Israeli lawmakers for approval Tuesday.

Lebanon begins to form cabinet

U.S. accuses Syria of 'inappropriate role' in Lebanese government

By ZEINA KARAMEE
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Incoming Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami got down to forming a government Friday, facing accusations from politicians and the United States that neighboring Syria held too much sway over his selections.

Karami was named to the post Thursday by President Emile Lahoud — both men are seen as close allies of Syria — and the appointment quickly drew criticism from Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Powell told Abu Dhabi television that the choice "once again shows that Syria is playing an inappropriate role in political life and in the civil life of the Lebanese people."

Karami immediately ran into difficulties when the leader of the country's Druze community said he would not cooperate in

the Cabinet selection process because of Syria's influence.

"He is not the one who is forming the new government," Druze leader Walid Jumblatt said of Karami in remarks published Friday.

Also complicating the process, a political heavyweight from the Christian community demanded the Interior Ministry portfolio in Karami's government or else he would join the opposition.

Karami denied that Syria had told Lahoud who it wanted in the new Cabinet. The new government was not present in the process of choosing ministers, he said. "I know the sensitive international situation and the crises the people are suffering from," Karami said.

Karami replaces billionaire Rafik Hariri, a longtime rival of Lahoud. Hariri, who resigned Wednesday, was prime minister for 10 of the 14 years since Lebanon's civil war ended in 1990 and was seen as less dependent on Syria than other Lebanese political figures.

Karami, 70, is a lawyer from the northern city of Tripoli who served as prime minister in 1990-92. An informal poll of legislators indicated that Karami had the support of at least 71 of the parliament's 128 members.

The outgoing minister of health, Suleiman Franjeh, said on television late Thursday he wanted the Interior Ministry portfolio in the new government or he would join the opposition.

The Interior Ministry will define the constitutions for legislative elections due in May.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, left, greets Omar Karami in Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday. Lahoud appointed pro-Syrian politician Karami as prime minister and asked him to form the next government.

Few vaccine shortages in Europe

By NAOMI KOPPEL
The Associated Press

GENEVA — Ireland — like the United States — is struggling to find enough flu vaccine following the shutdown of a British factory, but other European countries mostly have no shortages, an Associated Press survey found Thursday.

Northern Ireland — which usually orders 80 percent of its doses from U.S. drug maker Chiron Corp.'s factory in Liverpool — and the Republic of Ireland acknowledged difficulties obtaining enough doses of the vaccine as the flu season starts in the Northern Hemisphere.

British regulators announced Oct. 5 they had shut down the Chiron production facility in Liverpool because of contamination.

That cut the U.S. vaccine supply — usually 100 million doses — almost in half.

Fewer problems have been reported in Europe, however.

There are sufficient stocks in Spain, Sweden, Austria, Croatia and the Czech Republic, and in the rest of Britain, national authorities said. Italy also has enough, although suppliers were forced to reduce their prices by 40 percent after consumer groups complained the shots were too expensive.

Daniel Haeuppli, co-head of vaccine and blood development at the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic

Products, said his country had all the 1.3 million doses it needed.

The Paul Ehrlich Institute, Germany's federal agency for vaccines, said it did not look like there would be trouble in that country.

This year has been "a mild year for the flu," spokeswoman Susanne Stoecker said. "But it's hard to tell ahead of time how much vaccine should be made available."

She said about 20 million doses of vaccine were available in Germany, which has a population of about 80 million. Typically, about 20 percent of Germans get flu shots.

"Based on our experience, we see what was needed last year, and then produce more, just to be sure," Stoecker said.

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have had more trouble.

"It is not our role to secure supplies, but we had to step in," said Dr. Lorraine Doherty, senior medical adviser at the Northern Ireland health department.

The Northern Ireland health department negotiated bulk purchases with other suppliers, allowing the Chiron shutdown, but it was still short of doses.

Still, it insisted that every person who needed a shot would receive it.

South of the border, the Republic of Ireland found it had just 200,000 doses by the end of Sep-

tember while it required at least 530,000 for the flu season.

On Oct. 5, the health department announced it had secured a total of 598,000 doses — but the orders from other suppliers are coming in stages running into early November. So Ireland's usual TV and newspaper ad campaign is still urging people in high-risk groups to get their shots was delayed, and many doctors and clinics are complaining that their initial supplies have run out.

The U.N. health agency said governments need to take a close look at the way they ensure their stocks of flu vaccines if they are to avoid shortages in the future.

Marie Cheng, spokeswoman for the World Health Organization, noted that the United States has been relying on two suppliers — and one supplier had a problem. The United Kingdom has four or five suppliers.

"One of the problems that the Chiron problem raised was the lack of capacity that exists in vaccine production," Cheng told the AP. Cheng said the composition of the flu vaccine changes every year in response to scientists' prediction of which strains will be most widespread. So there is no incentive for companies to produce more vaccine than the order they already have.

Associated press bureaus in London; Dublin, Ireland; Berlin; Madrid, Spain; Stockholm, Sweden; Vienna, Austria; Zagreb, Croatia; Prague, Czech Republic; and Rome contributed to this report.

Karzai's lead narrows, but still on track to win

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Interim leader Hamid Karzai's substantial lead narrowed slightly as vote counting approached a decisive point in Afghanistan's landmark presidential election.

With 5.62 million, or more than two-thirds, of the ballots tallied, Karzai's lead still looked unassailable on Friday, as his nearest challenger, former Education Minister Yunus Qanooni, trailed by nearly 40 percentage points.

The U.S.-backed incumbent is looking to chalk up at least half the estimated 8 million votes cast to avoid a second-round run-off.

He's likely to reach that point in the next two days as vote counting continues, although it's still not a certainty.

Election officials say they will not comment on the outcome of the poll before the announcement of official results, which could take another week.

With 69.8 percent of the votes tallied by Friday afternoon, Karzai had 3,135,491 votes or 55.8 percent. Qanooni had 17.6 percent.

Karzai lost some ground

Thursday in the count of votes from some central and northern provinces that pushed ethnic Hazara chieftain Mohammed Mubaraq and Uzbek strongman Abdul Rashid Dostum up to around 10 percent.

U.N. spokesman Mansel de Almeida e Silva said vote counting was likely to continue into next week. The U.N.-Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body, or JEMB, would only issue the official results "a few days" after the count was complete, after considering the results of an ongoing probe into complaints of vote fraud brought by Karzai's rivals, he said.

De Almeida e Silva said the panel of three foreign experts investigating allegations — including ballot-box stuffing and multiple voting — planned to meet with the candidates next week.

"Let's hope they will be able to settle their recommendations with their final report to the JEMB in the days to come," he said.

Taliban rebels failed to deliver on threats to derail the Oct. 9 election, which is hoped to usher in democracy after a quarter-century of conflict in Afghanistan.

Associated Press writers Stephen Graham in Kabul and Noor Khan in Kandahar contributed to this report.

Bahrain protestors call for release of activist, prime minister's resignation

By ADNAN MALIK
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — In an intensifying protest campaign, 2,500 demonstrators marched through Manama on Thursday, calling for the release of a jailed human rights activist and for the resignation of the prime minister, who has been in office for more than 30 years.

The Shiite Muslim demonstrators were protesting the arrest last month of Abdul-Hadi al-Khawajah, executive director of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights.

Al-Khawajah was detained after he called at a symposium for the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, blaming him for economic failures and human rights violations.

Al-Khawajah has pleaded innocent to charges of inciting hatred against the government and circulating false information about top officials.

The crowd dispersed after 90 minutes. Police were barely in sight. Traffic police helped divert traffic, which was bumper-to-bumper as the crowd marched on the highway adjacent to the prime minister's office.

"I am overwhelmed," said al-Khawajah's wife, Khadija al-Mousawi, covered head-to-toe in a black robe. "I think people are not scared anymore and have begun to understand their rights. This is what my husband wanted."

Bahrain, whose King Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has taken bold steps since assuming the throne in 1999 to move the country from an absolute monarchy to a constitu-

tional one, is one of the few states in the Gulf where peaceful protests are tolerated.

But Al-Khawajah's arrest and trial, and the dissolution of his group, shows the limits of the democratization process the tiny Gulf kingdom has embarked on.

Such public criticism of a member of Bahrain's ruling family — the prime minister is the king's uncle — is rare. After al-Khawajah's arrest on Sept. 25, his supporters have launched an unprecedented and growing series of demonstrations.

Arab and Western human rights groups have called on the government to release al-Khawajah, who returned to Bahrain in May with his family after 22 years of self-imposed exile in Europe.

His next court hearing was scheduled for Monday.

Frog causes stir

GA SAVANNAH — The small frogs that croaked in Diane Butler's backyard pond had been silenced and her goldfish were disappearing. But she had bagged the culprit, and skinned the body in her freezer.

Butler's capture of a 4½-inch Cuban tree frog in coastal Savannah has caused a nervous stir among wildlife biologists in Georgia and Florida.

The exotic amphibian invaded the Florida Keys nearly 80 years ago and slowly spread throughout the state, devouring native frogs and insects in its path. But Butler's catch marks the first time the species has been documented in Georgia.

That's bad news if the Cuban frogs, known to hitchhike to new homes in shipments of potted plants, are breeding in Georgia, biologists say.

Inmate claims crime

NY SARATOGA SPRINGS — An 82-year-old convicted killer serving a life sentence in a New Jersey prison claims he and his brother were responsible for an unsolved jewel heist that has perplexed authorities for nearly 40 years.

But some doubt the inmate's story, including the police chief who investigated the 1967 theft of nearly \$800,000 in jewels from a wealthy couple's home in upstate New York.

Allison Williams told the Philadelphia Inquirer the heist was pulled off by his brother, Cliff, a year after they cased the home owned by Marylou Whitney and her husband at the time, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney.

Retired Saratoga Springs Police Chief Peter Pemberton also said Williams was "full of hot air."

Still, local authorities will reopen the case even though Williams could not be prosecuted because the statute of limitations has expired.

Williams was convicted in 1991 of killing a witness who was about to testify against him in court.

Missing mom located

TX ARLINGTON — Police have located the mother of a young boy whose neighbors took turns caring for him and waited weeks to call police after she disappeared, authorities said.

Investigators were interviewing Juline Bullard, 44, who was jailed on \$5,000 bond on a child abandonment charge. The woman was located after authorities got a tip, police spokeswoman Christy Gilfour said.

Bullard allegedly told authorities that someone had agreed to care for the child for three months while she sought housing and a job.

The boy, known only as "Teddy," told neighbors he is 3 but may be as old as 5, authorities said.

More forgery charges

IN BLOOMINGTON — A man charged with forgery allegedly tried to get out of jail by —



what else? — forging documents for his release.

Now, 20-year-old Jared J. Bailey faces new felony charges of attempted escape and forgery.

Investigators say Bailey forged the signature of Monroe Circuit Judge Douglas R. Bridges on a court order that purportedly changed his bail from \$100,000 surety bond to \$500 in cash.

Bailey's old roommate told police that Bailey asked him to fax the fake papers to Bailey's attorney. The friend said he went to a copy store with a fax number he thought was the attorney's, but the documents went to the jail instead, according to an affidavit.

The fake document is complete with a clerk's office stamp and a template similar to the real thing. Jail staff viewed the papers as suspicious and did not release Bailey, whose bond has since been raised to \$250,000 surety.

Bailey is also awaiting trial on charges of burglary, felony battery, confinement with a deadly weapon, attempted armed robbery and impersonating a police officer.

Site may yield diamonds

MT HELENA — The bright green rocks jutting through the prairie soil were hard to miss, but Tom Charlton still couldn't believe his eyes.

It was kimberlite, the molten rock in which diamonds are found, and preliminary tests had yielded a microscopic diamond. If more



Fall already done?

The fall of falls colors are seen with a view of a church steeple in Middlebury, Vt., on Thursday.

are found at the 80-acre site known as the Homestead property, the land could become the state's first-ever commercial diamond operation and the only working diamond mine in the United States, geologists said.

Canada currently has the only diamond mines operating in North America.

"It's once in a lifetime. You just don't find things like that every day," said Charlton, an official with Delta Mining and Exploration Corp.

The Kentucky-based firm plans to begin large-scale exploration of the central Montana site next month.

Park study for nuke site

WA YAKIMA — President Bush has signed a bill requiring the federal government to study the potential for adding historic Manhattan Project sites, including a reactor at the Hanford nuclear site, to the national park system.

Former nuclear workers and concerned residents for years have been trying to preserve Hanford's B Reactor as a museum. The world's first full-scale plutonium production nuclear reactor, B Reactor was built as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build an atomic bomb.

The south-central Washington reactor produced the plutonium for the first man-made nuclear blast, the Trinity test in New Mexico on July 16, 1945. B Reactor also produced the plutonium for the bomb that was dropped that August on Nagasaki, Japan, during World War II.

Group tears down ghoul

FL ST. PETERSBURG — It had the face of Frankenstein and the hands of a werewolf.

Outfitted in jeans and flannel shirt, the creature — stuffed with crumpled newspaper — hung by the neck on a homemade gallows outside a house in St. Petersburg.

To its owner, "Bob" was a Halloween decoration. But to Omali Yeshitela, it was a racially charged symbol of hate.

On Tuesday, as police officers on the scene scrambled to contact the homeowner at work after Yeshitela and others from the International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement tore the dummy down.

"There is no history of hanging ghoulies in this country but there is history of hanging African people," said Yeshitela.

Colleen Watson was surprised and upset when police called her at work to say the display her 15-year-old son had spent two days creating had been torn down. She said it had never occurred to her it would offend anyone.

More parking at park

MA BOSTON — The creation of a 30-acre park stop Boston's Big Dig underground highway project will provide a precious commodity in the city: up to 175 on-street parking spaces. Just who will get to use the spaces around the Rose Kennedy Greenway is uncertain. The public can voice opinions during a pair of comment periods in the next two weeks.



Annual film fest on

Wood Roofing Company employee David Beck of Hot Springs, Ark., walks past a mural along the north side of the Malco Theater in Hot Springs, Ark., on Thursday. The historic downtown theater houses the Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute. The institute's 13th annual film festival began Friday and runs through Oct. 31. Beck is part of a crew doing some repairs on the roof.



Peaceful pastime

A quiet fall afternoon attracts Bob Rafols of DeSoto, Kan., and Bob Nickle of Tonganoxie, Kan., to the Wakarusa River near Eudora, Kan., for a day of fishing amidst the changing trees on Thursday.



A long way down Rochester firefighter trainee Amon Hudson rappels off the Pont de Rennes Bridge in Rochester, N.Y., on Thursday as part of his training. Each fall, candidates go through a 13-week training course before they are eligible to become Rochester firefighters.



Truck fire destroys bridge A truck that was carrying log smolders beneath the Interstate 65 and Interstate 59 interchange Thursday in Birmingham, Ala. The truck caught fire around 7 a.m. and burnt the interstate exchange above it. Officials say the bridge will have to be removed.



Fog creeping in Low early morning fog covers a portion of Highway 178 and other parts of the Kern River Valley as a solo vehicle makes its way through it with headlights visible Thursday near Lake Isabella, Calif.

Squid wash up dead

WA LONG BEACH — When hundreds of giant squid washed up dead on the Long Beach Peninsula last weekend, Dean Marsh knew exactly what to do: He stocked his freezer.

"No sense letting them go to waste," said the 37-year-old bait salesman, who planned to cut them up and sell them to fishermen.

An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 Humboldt jumbo flying squid — typically found off the coast of Mexico — have washed up on southwest Washington beaches in the past few days, said Greg Bargmann, a marine fish manager with the state Fish and Wildlife Department.

What's killing them isn't clear. "They're like salmon. They spawn and then they die," Bargmann said. "I don't know if this is post-spawning, or if the waters got so cold they couldn't take it anymore."

Tuna fishermen first reported seeing the squid about 30 miles off the southwest Washington coast in August. At the time, the ocean water was significantly warmer than usual — 67 degrees, instead of 50 to 55 degrees.

Ever since, the squid have surprised anglers as far north as Sitka, Alaska. One salmon fisherman in British Columbia hauled in a 6½-foot, 44-pound squid this month — a specimen that's now in a formaldehyde tank at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

Some people have called Bargmann to ask if they can eat the dead squid they find on the beach.

"I sure wouldn't eat them. It would be like eating a deer on the side of the road," Bargmann said. "But if you catch them live, they'd be good."

Fair breaks record

SC COLUMBIA — Organizers credit beautiful weather with helping the State Fair break a 12-year attendance record. Fair officials said 630,152 people came through the gates. That broke the old record of 612,399 set in 1992. Most of the credit goes to mild temperatures and clear skies, fair spokeswoman Nancy Smith said.

Health plan to close

AZ PHOENIX — Maricopa County will close a health plan at the end of the year that provides low premiums and co-pays to about 5,600 seniors. The Maricopa Senior Select Plan has lost money each year, and this year's loss is expected to near \$11 million. Members using the plan have received other choices, but the premiums may be higher for some members.

Man donates kidney

KS MARYSVILLE — Eric Swim was surfing on the Internet in June when he stumbled across the story of a 10-year-old Jewish boy from Israel who was in desperate need of a kidney transplant.

"I began thinking that I have two good kidneys," the Marysville man said, "and I didn't have to have one of them."

Swim, 38, returned Sunday from Israel with one less kidney and the thanks of many Israelis he met.

"It's a humbling thing when a Holocaust survivor comes up to you and says 'you're a big hero,' or 'gi'bor' in Hebrew," Swim said Monday during an interview at his home, "when in reality all I did was

donate a kidney. It's very humbling."

The organ recipient, Moshiko Sharon, who had waited for a compatible kidney donor for more than a year, is doing well after undergoing implant surgery Sept. 21 at a Tel Aviv-area hospital.

But before the surgery could happen, Swim had to undergo tests to determine whether he would be a good match. Swim learned the results of the tests Sept. 3 and left three days later for Tel Aviv.

Swim was joined by his wife, Lori, 34, and the couple's two children, Lucy, 10, and Josiah, 6.

"So many bad things are going on these days that it is hard to look at the world and have any hope for children," Lori Swim said. "If you want to have children see a better way, maybe saving one person's life will help us in the bigger scheme of things."

The organ donation was facilitated by the New York-based Halachic Organ Donor Society, which educates Jews about organ donation.

Rider denies ticket time

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A motorcyclist who set jaws dripping across the nation last month when he was stopped for going 205 mph told a reporter for Midwest Quick Throttle Magazine that he was going closer to half that speed.

The interview was apparently the first for media-savvy Samuel Tilley, 20, of Stillwater, Minn., who has not spoken publicly about his record-setting ticket since he was stopped on Sept. 18 south of Minneapolis.

"He's beside himself about the whole thing," magazine editor Pat Andrews said.

Tilley said in the interview that he's not sure exactly how fast he was going because he was watching the road and another rider who was nearby, said Scottie Ard, who wrote the story for Quick Throttle. The other rider was ticketed for going 111 mph.

"He doesn't know how he could have been going 205 miles per hour, especially when the guy he was with was going 111," Andrews said.

A Minnesota State Patrol pilot saw Tilley from the air and used a stopwatch to time him as he passed quarter-mile markers along Hwy. 61. The pilot's reading of 4 seconds translated into Tilley's 205 mph speed.

Foreign students drop

OR EUGENE — Oregon colleges are struggling to attract foreign students because of concerns about terrorism and heightened security requirements. At Lane Community College, the number of foreign students has stayed flat for the past three years, after growing at more than 6 percent per year. International enrollment at the University of Oregon dropped to an estimated 1,170 this year from a peak of almost 1,700 in 1997.

Gay marriage no issue

OH COLUMBUS — Gov. Bob Taft said that while he opposes an amendment banning gay marriage, he won't actively campaign against it because of other campaign responsibilities. The Republican says the proposed amendment is ambiguous, goes too far and could hurt the state's efforts to recruit and retain high-tech workers.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Martin pleads to U.N. for help with cause

Pop star **Ricky Martin** came to the United Nations to appeal to governments to declare war on tourists who sexually exploit children around the world.

Millions of children are drawn into prostitution every year, according to the U.S. State Department. One form of exploitation is child sex tourism by adults who travel to foreign countries.

"This is war. This is a battle we need to win," Martin said at a luncheon attended by U.N. ambassadors and activists trying to end the practice. "This one is worth it. ... We're talking about the lives of children."

But the Puerto Rican singer said the activists needed help.

He started the Ricky Martin Foundation about 10 years ago to help children in need, and recently initiated the People for Children Project as one of its endeavors to try to end child sex tourism and other illegal practices.



Martin

Cosby takes message to Milwaukee

Bill Cosby won cheers as he carried a serious message to Milwaukee's black community, urging parents to take up the responsibility of educating and raising their children.

"It is not all right for your 15-year-old daughter to have a child," the comedian said. "I'm 67 years old. I'm not talking to you any different from a grandfather who would say, 'I wouldn't do that if I were you.'"

Cosby was warmly received by a crowd of about 2,400 people at North Division High School in Milwaukee's inner city.

He asked parents to talk with their children, spend time with them and encourage them to study hard and prevent teen pregnancy.

He said parents shouldn't leave the responsibility of raising their children to television and CDs.

Funny man on for one more season

Jimmy Kimmel will keep up the late-night banner for another year.

ABC said it has renewed "Jimmy Kimmel Live" through 2005.

"I'm delighted that ABC has exhausted all other options and picked up mine for another year," Kimmel joked in a statement released by the network.

The program, which debuted in January 2003, has featured guests such as **Britney Spears**, **Serena Williams** and **Billy Bob Thornton**.

The nighttime talk-show circuit has been changing lately. CBS lost **Craig Kilborn** in August from the "Late Late Show," which follows **Dave Letterman's** "Late Show," when he quit. A new host has yet to be announced.

NBC's **Conan O'Brien** will leave "Tonight" in 2009 and be replaced by "Late Night" host **Conan O'Brien**.



Kimmel

Bono to receive TED Prize

U2 frontman and global activist **Bono** is one of three recipients of the inaugural TED Prize from the Technology, Entertainment, Design conference.

The other recipients are Canadian photo-artist **Edward Burtynsky** and medical technologies pioneer **Robert Fischell**. Each will receive \$100,000 and the chance to have three wishes fulfilled by a group of world-class companies and many members of the TED Community, it was announced.

The three wishes of each honoree will be revealed at the next TED conference, to be held Feb. 23-26 in Monterey, Calif.

"We are exhilarated to have such extraordinary individuals as our inaugural winners of the TED Prize," said **Chris Anderson**, TED curator and founder of the Sapling Foundation, in a statement. "We believe they will inspire the TED Community — and perhaps many others — to play a role in nudging our world toward a better future."

Stories and photos from wire services.



This image from the video game "Kuma War," from Kuma Reality Games, shows the likeness of Sen. John Kerry in military attire driving a Swift boat in this undated promotional photo. Video games have entered the race for the White House and joined Internet blogs as the 2004 election's newest format for political expression.

Video games stage digital race for White House

Editor's note: Arts and entertainment have long converged with politics. But this year, something different is in the air — and on movie screens, in bookstores, on the radio, and everywhere else media is consumed. This is the last part of a six-part series.

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Super Mario for president? Probably not (since he wasn't born in America), but for the first time in presidential politics video games have entered the race, joining Internet blogs as the 2004 election's newest format for political expression.

So what options do gamers have in the digital campaign? Armchair political junkies can try to outfox President Bush's election strategist Karl Rove or attempt to run a better campaign than Sen. John Kerry by building support in battleground states in "The Political Machine."

Meanwhile, with a downloaded mission for the shooting adventure "Kuma War," anyone curious about the battle in which John Kerry won his Silver Star for heroism can step into his combat boots and engage in a firefight from the deck of swift boat on the Mekong Delta in 1969.

Those who like a dose of gross-out humor with their intricate public-policy debate can try out "Bushgame.com," in which 1980s TV characters wage war against monsters in the Bush administration.

The reward at the end of each goofy level: a text critique that lambastes the president's positions on Iraq, the economy, taxes and Social Security as bad for America's future.

Some game developers take a nonpartisan approach. In "The Political Machine," you can play as either candidate, and the issues they face — gun control, terrorism, education — aren't spun for or against either contender.

Players compete by building campaign headquarters, collecting contributions, broadcasting ads, and supporting issues that are traditional to their respective parties, said Larry Kuperman, marketing executive for game creator Stardock Entertainment.

"A Republican that came out and said, 'I don't think anyone should ever be able to own a gun' ... that's saying, 'I want to lose the election as quickly as possible,'" Kuperman said.

Others, like 25-year-old "Bushgame" creator Jason Oda, are out to make a point.

"I just hoped that people can go beyond the obvious little soundbites you hear all the time and have better ammunition and better understanding of the reasons why Bush should be out of the White House," he said.

In the game, which can be played on the Internet, players start out as Mr. T, Hulk Hogan or He-Man fighting "corporate pigs" and mutant versions of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, Attorney General John Ashcroft or Vice President Dick Cheney.

Digital versions of Howard Dean (with "super scream" action), Christopher Reeve (whose character wants stem-cell research) and Howard Stern join the fight as you progress. In one level, the player must wait for an explanation of the nation's soaring budget deficit under Bush to play out as a bridge to a new fighting arena.

Oda acknowledges it's got its share of bad taste, too. Players try to stop the president's father and mother, George and Barbara, from mating and producing other Bushes, which shoot out from between her legs and go on the attack.

He said he was aiming at young "South Park" fans who may not care about politics, and sees this kind of humor as a way to educate them and get them to vote.

Gross-out tactics aren't limited to Democrats. David Sichertman, 31, proprietor of KerrySucks.com, showcases games like "The Kerry Torture Chamber," which allows players to kick the Massachusetts senator in the groin or poke his eye bloody.

He described it as good-natured catharsis for the politically frustrated.

"The average [Internet] surfer is not interested in politics," he said. "No one is going decide who they're going to vote for based on the video game, but if they play an anti-Kerry game, and they're anti-Kerry, it makes them laugh."



YOUR MONEY

Company turning soybean oil into car parts

By DAVE KOLPAC
The Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — A local company that makes interior vehicle parts out of natural fibers is taking one of North Dakota's most abundant crops out from the ground and putting it behind the wheel.

Composite America is testing a process that turns oil from crushed soybeans into solid form, which in turn could be shaped into panels for cars, construction equipment, farm machinery, snowmobiles — and even airplanes.

"We feel very strongly that it's worth our time and effort and financing to investigate how we can be on the forefront of this material," said Scott Greelis, company president. "But the whole trick is that that you have to have a marketplace."

The North Dakota Soybean

Council is backing the project, which is expected to be completed by June. A member-owned soybean processing plant also is helping with development, Greelis said.

Composite America will test the panels for strength, durability and ability to draw out sound.

"Then we have to sell it," Greelis said.

Composite America is testing a process that turns oil from crushed soybeans into solid form, which in turn could be shaped into panels for cars, construction equipment, farm machinery, snowmobiles — and even airplanes.

Soybean production in North Dakota has skyrocketed in recent years as the crop became more profitable for farmers. Producers harvested a record crop of nearly 88 million bushels last year, compared with fewer than 10 million bushels a decade earlier.

"I think we're on the verge of seeing all soy oil-based production exploding into the market," said Matt Mechtel, soybean council chairman. "I applaud any company that's willing to experiment like this, because they're taking on a certain amount of risk and expense."



Jeremy Rham, left, and Tommy Lyles take an interior panel out of a press at the Composite America plant in Fargo, N.D., last week. The plant is looking into making vehicle and airplane parts out of soybean oil.

Many automobile manufacturers already are using soybean oil rather than petroleum oil to make interior car parts. Innovations in the car industry often trickle down to other types of vehicles, Greelis said.

This project will help him determine if his customers like the idea.

"We may take the plunge without having customer support," Greelis said. "It's a little early to say which way we're going to go."

Ballooning petroleum prices also could increase the demand of alternatives such as soybean oil, said Mechtel, who calls it a "wake-up call for the industry and consumers."

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
High	Low	Name	Last	% Chg
10,513.51	9,491.77	Dow Jones Industrial	9,561.75	+11.71
3,392.92	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,431.89	+44.95
302.26	241.26	Dow Jones Utilities	308.67	+2.0
6,798.11	5,812.25	NYSE Composite	6,563.49	+24.81
1,229.38	1,014.06	NYSE Index	1,031.74	+48.28
2,153.81	1,759.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,953.62	+30.65
1,163.23	1,018.32	S&P 500	1,066.49	+2.63
618.46	528.11	S&P MidCap	530.09	+5.66
696.42	583.88	Russell 2000	576.66	+1.51
11,371.14	9,590.89	DJ Wilshire 2000	10,851.86	+47.21

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	% Chg
General	562,905	1.51	+0.02	+1.34
Motorola	271,668	16.39	-0.10	-0.61
Cornell	228,807	1.00	-0.01	-1.00
Boeing	187,789	56.45	-1.11	-1.94
Pharmer	219,441	24.84	+0.41	+1.67
Boeing	187,789	56.45	-1.11	-1.94
Marshall	189,613	24.86	+0.17	+0.69
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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		\$1 Worth
Euro	British pound	\$1.57
Japanese yen (Oct. 23)	South Korean won (Oct. 22)	\$112.60
Commercial rates		\$1 Worth
Bahrain (Dinar)	Canada (Dollar)	\$0.7098
British pound	Denmark (Krone)	\$1.2927
Egypt (Pound)	Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$7.75
Hungary (Forint)	Israel (Shekel)	\$3.90
Japan (Yen)	Kuwait (Dinar)	\$3.67
Netherlands (Guilder)	Philippines (Peso)	\$56.22
Singapore (Dollar)	South Africa (Rand)	\$1.59
Switzerland (Franc)	Taiwan (Dollar)	\$1.31
Thailand (Baht)	Turkey (Lira)	\$1.480,000,000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), consult your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference; buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	NAV	Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Fidelity Asset Growth	35.51	+0.27	+0.76	+3.9
Fidelity Asset Growth	35.51	+0.27	+0.76	+3.9
Fidelity Asset Growth	35.51	+0.27	+0.76	+3.9
Fidelity Asset Growth	35.51	+0.27	+0.76	+3.9
Fidelity Asset Growth	35.51	+0.27	+0.76	+3.9

PRECIOUS METALS

London close		\$425.46
Gold	Silver	\$27.35

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.75
3-month bill	1.84
30-year bond	4.77

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Handling pregnancy at work

CBS MarketWatch
You might want to tell your employer until after the first trimester, Frankel recommends — when you're less likely to have a miscarriage and you've begun sharing the news with friends and family.

NEW YORK — Handled incorrectly, telling your boss that you're pregnant can move your career from the fast track to the mommy track.

So says Lois P. Frankel, author of "Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office." In the United States, "women get penalized for being child-bearers," Frankel says. Whether you plan to return to work after a brief maternity leave or take extended time off to care for your child, the key is to tell your boss and co-workers about your joyous news without giving them cause to treat you differently.

Don't be afraid to tell your employer. "You're sharing joyful personal news. Life events are going to happen," says Marisa Thiberg, chief executive officer of Executive Moms Inc., based in New York. The organization provides working moms with peer support, networking contacts and advice on careers, child care and other topics.

After you tell your boss, "manage the spin," recommends Frankel. "Frame how you want people to think about your pregnancy."



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THE UNITED STATES

Band 50s

40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s

© 2004 AccuWeather, Inc.

Pressure

High Low Showers Rain

See Associated Pages

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

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AccuWeather

Legend:

- Snowing
- Snow
- Rain
- Thunder
- Storm
- Ice
- Sunny
- Partly Cloudy
- Cloudy

FRONTS: Cold, Warm, Stationary

YOUR HOMELOW

STARS AND STRIPES®
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The Pisces moon brings a spiritual angle to the Scorpio solar influence. It's clear that life is operating on many levels and this physical plane is only a small part of the overall picture. Follow the inkling you're getting about a person or situation. You're not paranoid or oversensitive.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 23). You actively expand your mind this year, which in turn expands your finances, your love life and your network. So indulge in your passionate escape this month and let your hobby brings an influx of new blood to your social circle. In December, a job opportunity makes you a leader! Love signs are Gemini and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're eager to believe — an easy mark, one might say — in anyone who says he or she can make you richer, more attractive or better liked. But the fact is that you already have all you need to do those things. Get focused.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It will be difficult to get away from people. But your love for the human race will be slowly diminished with every unpleasant encounter. That's why it's important to grab some peace and privacy on whatever level you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Feedback is crucial to your process, but it's what you do with the feedback that determines your success potential. Lessen the impact of comments that really don't matter in the long run and maximize gems of encouragement.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Take on that daunting project. Once the first few steps are behind you, you'll start to gain momentum. And you don't have to do anything alone, either. Certain friends would love chip in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're finding ways to distinguish yourself. Though you may think you're not.

qualified for a job, you've got to apply. The same goes for loans, lotteries and grants. The simple act of extending yourself creates a link.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you believe to be right is right — for you. But it's not necessarily right for your partner, your children or your neighbor. Keep controversial opinions to yourself, and steer clear of the words "you should."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not interested in being mildly amused or partially entertained. You want to be positively stimulated by life! That's why you've got to hang around the best and the brightest. You could even develop a mild infatuation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's the weekend, yet your mind is compartmentalized into thought cycles that inevitably wind up right back at work. You're not a doctor on call 24 hours a day, you know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's easy to overestimate the significance of your role in a person's life, but this kind of temporary ego boost will ultimately cause you worry and strife. Take care of yourself, and trust others to take care of themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in the mood to shop, and it's a good thing since it's up to you to navigate through the shark-invested waters of consumerism. If you leave the important choices to less-than-savvy loved ones, you'll wind up in debt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Being clear in your own head about what's pleasurable and what's a drag will help you make the most of your leisure time. After all, how often is it that you get time to do whatever you want?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your plate is full, yes. But that doesn't mean you have to eat everything on it. It's never too late to renegotiate. However, don't wait until the last minute, and don't bail on people who are really counting on you.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



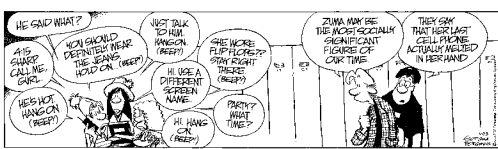
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



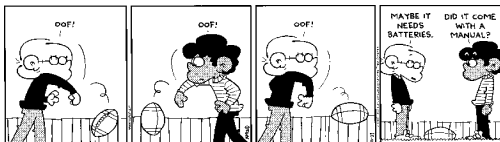
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



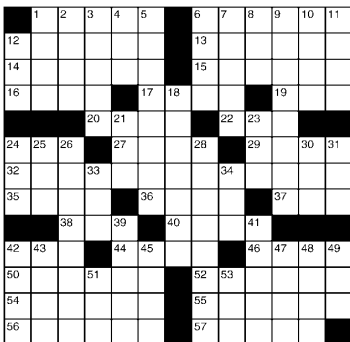
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Abused woman needs counseling

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been together for eight years, married for seven. During the last five years, he has picked fights with me. He tells me I'm worthless, that he doesn't care if we have sex or not because he can get it somewhere else, and that I'm stupid.

I have been depressed for nearly six years. I wanted to get on anti-depressants, but my husband doesn't believe in them and doesn't want me on them. I cry myself to sleep at night and have even started having nightmares. I went through this when I was young, after my mom moved out. I know what depression is, but I can't convince my husband that I need the medicine. During our last fight, he told me the only reason he ever said he was sorry and I'm still around is because he wants me here so he can have the kids around all the time, and because it's convenient. He apologized later, but I'm left wondering if he said it only to

keep me around waiting on him hand and foot.

Please help me. My husband doesn't believe in counseling. — Beaten Down in Oklahoma

Dear Abby: *Dear Beaten Down: Since when do you need anyone's permission to talk to a doctor? Please do so right away to discuss your long history of depression. While you are there, mention the fact that your husband is verbally abusive and ask for a referral to a licensed marriage counselor. Should your verbally abusive spouse refuse to go with you, go without him. Your mental health must come first. Once you start feeling better about yourself, you'll be better able to deal with your husband.*



Dear Abby: My sister, "June," came to live with my husband and me two years ago because living arrangements with her son didn't work out. Since then, my husband

of 50 years has passed on. My house is too big for me to take care of because I have medical problems of my own.

June doesn't help with any of the household chores or bills. I have wanted to sell my house ever since my children moved out years ago, but my husband wanted to keep it in case any of them needed to come back.

Four of my children have invited me into their homes, but what should I do with June?

— Turn Senior in New York

Dear Torn: You were wonderful to have provided a refuge for your sister when she needed it. However, she's an able-bodied adult and should not be your responsibility.

It's time for your sister to make other living arrangements. Talk to her and set a date for her to move. If she can't afford to live alone, she should find a roommate.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOFEL

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TIPAL

RUBBGY

PRACET

www.jumble.com

Answer: A

Yesterday's

Jumbles: GUEST BATCH CONCUR HAZING

Answer: The violinist visited the doctor because he was — "HIGHSTRUNG"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Getting over infidelity never easy

Dear Annie: After 15 years of marriage, I discovered my wife was having an affair with a co-worker who came into town every month. She had been seeing him for three years. After he left the company, she communicated through a cell phone he provided, which is how I found out.

I almost left her then, but we have two beautiful young children, and I couldn't bear to be without them. The affair is over, and although we never discuss it, occasionally I have a setback that will keep me up at night.

I told my wife in the beginning that it might take a while for me to let this go, but she doesn't seem to understand the severity of what's happened. Recently, she argued what a tough time she's having because I don't completely trust her, and that I should get over it because it's been a year. Is she right?

— Not Over It Yet

Dear Not Over It Yet: Hardly. Your wife betrayed your marriage, lied

to you and undermined the foundation of your relationship. It takes a great deal of time, effort, forgiveness and hard work to "get over it."

You must make a sincere effort to put this behind you, and she must understand the depth of your pain. If you haven't had marriage counseling, please look into it now.

Talk to your clergyman, or ask your doctor to refer you.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Concerned Friend and Taxpayer," whose friend's 19-year-old daughter, "Beverly," is pregnant from a one-night stand. She wants to put "father unknown" on her child's birth certificate and not ask for child support. I wish I had been as smart as Beverly.

I did not down the father's name, and now I have to deal with a man who is a drug addict and alcoholic who can't hold a

job. He pays child support when he wants to, which is just enough to keep him out of jail. He did sign off on visitation rights, but will not sign off on parental rights, which means my current husband cannot adopt my son.

If I had been as smart as Beverly, I would not have to worry about all this, and my son would have this wonderful man as his true daddy.

I think sometimes it is best for the baby not to have to deal with a bad father. If Beverly is on public assistance, the government will pay for a baby sitter so she can continue her education.

— Older and Wiser in Ohio

Dear Ohio: Even a rotten father can love his child and should be given the opportunity (as long as he is not abusive). But your husband IS your child's "true daddy," because he is the one who is raising the boy.

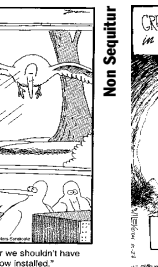
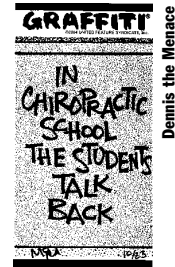
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Conscience is a little voice inside your head, but sometimes it just whispers."



SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College football: Air Force Football with Fisher Delivery (radio).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — College football: South Florida at Louisville (radio).

AFN-Atlantic, 4 p.m. — College football: Iowa at Penn State.

AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m. — College football: Northwestern at Wisconsin.

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. — College football: Florida at Mississippi St.

AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m. — College football: Alabama at Tennessee.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. — College football: Florida St. at Wake Forest.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. — College football: Michigan at N.Y. Jets.

Sunday

AFN-Atlantic/Pacific, Radio, 1:30 a.m. — World Series Game 1, St. Louis at Boston.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College football: Miami at N.C. State.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College football: NASCAR Busch Series, Sam's Town He Dared To Rock (radio).

AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m. — College football: North Carolina at Miami.

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — World Series: Jacksonville at Boston (radio).

AFN-Pacific, Radio, 1 p.m. — NFL: Jacksonville vs. Atlanta (radio).

AFN-Pacific, 1 p.m. — NFL: Detroit at N.Y. Giants.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, Darlington (radio).

AFN-Pacific, Radio, 10 p.m. — NFL: N.Y. Jets at Oakland.

AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. — NFL: Dallas at Oakland.

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. — NFL: Seattle at Arizona (radio).

Times are Central European time. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts are available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Pro soccer

MLS playoffs

Conference Semifinals
(Two-leg Aggregate Score Series)

Eastern Conference
Columbus vs. New England

Western Conference
San Jose vs. Los Angeles

Saturday, Oct. 23
Columbus at New England

Sunday, Oct. 24
San Jose at Los Angeles

Saturday, Oct. 23
D.C. United vs. MetroStars

Sunday, Oct. 24
MetroStars at D.C. United

Western Conference
Seattle vs. Portland

Saturday, Oct. 23
Seattle at Portland

Sunday, Oct. 24
Los Angeles vs. Colorado

Saturday, Oct. 23
Los Angeles at Colorado

Sunday, Oct. 24
Colorado at Los Angeles

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East
New England 1 0 0 1,000 125
Buffalo 0 0 0 1,000 120
New York 0 0 0 200 71
Baltimore 0 0 0 200 71

South
Indianapolis 1 0 0 109 106
Jacksonville 1 0 0 667 95
Tennessee 0 0 0 333 128

North
Baltimore 3 2 0 600 97
Cincinnati 1 0 0 200 83

West
Denver 5 1 0 833 139
Chicago 3 0 0 500 136
Oakland 2 0 0 333 98
Kansas City 2 0 0 333 102

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East
Philadelphia 1 0 0 800 174
N.Y. Giants 1 0 0 800 174
Washington 0 0 0 333 84

South
Atlanta 3 1 0 833 119
New Orleans 1 0 0 200 71
Carolina 1 0 0 200 71
Tampa Bay 0 0 0 167 90

North
Minnesota 2 0 0 333 102
Detroit 2 0 0 600 88
Green Bay 1 0 0 333 102
Chicago 0 0 0 200 78

West
St. Louis 2 0 0 667 144
Seattle 3 2 0 600 132
Arizona 2 0 0 333 87
San Francisco 0 0 0 167 90

Sunday's game
St. Louis at Miami
Detroit at N.Y. Giants
Buffalo at Baltimore
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay
San Diego at Carolina
Philadelphia at Cleveland
Tennessee at Minnesota
Dallas at New England
Dallas at Green Bay

Seattle at Arizona
New Orleans at Oakland
Ole Miss at Washington, San Francisco, Houston

Monday's game
Denver at Cincinnati

Sunday, Oct. 31
Detroit at Dallas

Arizona at Buffalo
Cincinnati at Tennessee

Green Bay at Washington
Kansas City at Houston

Philadelphia at Kansas City
Baltimore at Philadelphia

Atlanta at Minnesota
Carolina at Seattle

San Francisco at Oakland
Oakland at San Diego

San Diego at Cleveland
San Francisco at Chicago

Chicago at Tampa Bay, New Orleans, Cleveland

Monday, Nov. 1
Miami at N.Y. Jets

Pro basketball

NBA preseason

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division
W L Pct GB
Philadelphia 2 1 800 1/2
New Jersey 2 2 500 1/2
New York 2 2 500 1/2
Toronto 0 3 0 3/2

Southwest Division
W L Pct GB
Miami 3 1 750 1/2
New Orleans 2 2 500 1/2
Orlando 2 2 500 1/2
Charlotte 0 4 0 3/2

Central Division
W L Pct GB
Indiana 3 0 1,000 1/2
Milwaukee 3 2 600 1/2
Chicago 2 2 500 1/2
Detroit 2 2 500 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division
W L Pct GB
Memphis 4 1 800 1/2
Houston 3 2 600 1/2
New Orleans 3 2 600 1/2
San Antonio 0 3 0 3/2

Northwest Division
W L Pct GB
Portland 2 1 667 1/2
Denver 2 2 500 1/2
Minnesota 2 2 500 1/2
Seattle 0 3 0 3/2

Pacific Division
W L Pct GB
Phoenix 3 2 600 1/2
Golden State 3 2 600 1/2
Los Angeles 3 2 600 1/2
LA Clippers 1 3 250 3/2

Thursday's games
Portland 88, Toronto 85
Denver 101, LA Clippers 88
Atlanta 97, Milwaukee 91
Orlando 92, New Orleans 91

Friday's games
Orlando 92, Chicago 78
Philadelphia 97, LA Lakers 95
Dallas 112, New York 74
Golden State 99, Los Angeles 88, OT

Saturday's games
Portland at Charlotte
New Jersey at Boston
Denver at Golden State

Washington at Detroit
New York at Minnesota at Sioux Falls, S.D.
Sacramento at Utah

Sunday's games
Houston at Orlando
Cleveland vs. Boston at Uncasville, Conn.
New Jersey at Philadelphia

Atlanta at Memphis
Indiana vs. Minnesota at Bismarck, N.D.
Dallas at Milwaukee

Atlanta at San Antonio
New Orleans at Sacramento

Monday's games
Utah at Detroit
Charlotte vs. Washington
Dallas at New York

Portland at New Orleans
New Orleans at LA Clippers
LA Clippers vs. Lakers at Las Vegas

Tennis

Madrid Masters

At Rectino Fede de la Casa de Campo

Monday, Spain
Purse: \$3,250 million Masters

Surfside: Hard-Disc Masters

Sunday's games
Quarterfinals

At Wald World Resort Courses

m-Magnolia Course, 7:30 a.m. per 72

La Laguna Course, 6:30 a.m. per 72

La Laguna Course, 6:30 a.m. per 72

La Laguna Course, 6:30 a.m. per 72

La Laguna Course, 6:30 a.m. per 72

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La Laguna Course, 6:30 a.m. per 72

La Laguna Course, 6:30 a.m. per 72

Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, def. Joachim Johansson 7 (1), Sweden, 7 (2), 6 (1), 7 (1), 7 (1).

David Nalbandian, U.S. Argentina, def. Tommy Bor, U.S. Argentina, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Thursday
Singles

Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, def. Tim Henman 6 (1), 6 (2), 6 (1), 6 (1), 6 (1).

Taylor, United States, def. Tommy Bor, U.S. Argentina, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Joachim Johansson 7 (1), Sweden, def. Anthony Davis, U.S. Argentina, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Luca Horn, Peru, def. Andrei Pavel, R. Romania, 6 (1), 6 (2), 6 (1), 6 (1), 6 (1).

David Nalbandian, U.S. Argentina, def. Parag Mehta, U.S. Argentina, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Tommy Bor, U.S. Argentina, def. Fernando Gonzalez, U.S. Argentina, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Andre Agassi 3 (1), United States, def. Vince Spadea, U.S. Argentina, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Marat Safin 3 (1), Russia, def. Stefan Koubek, Austria, 6 (3), 6 (3), 6 (3).

Swisscom Challenge

Friday
At Schueffel Stadium, Zurich, Switzerland

Purses: \$1.1 million (Tier I)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Elena Dementieva, U.S. Russia, def. Al. Siyigina, Japan, 6 (1), 5 (7), 7 (5).

Maria Sharapova, U.S. Russia, def. Venus Williams 7 (1), United States, 6 (3), 6 (4).

David Nalbandian, U.S. Argentina, def. Paola Suarez, Argentina, 6 (2), 6 (3), 6 (4).

Singles

Paolo Suarez, Argentina, def. Emilio Loti, Argentina, 7 (5), 6 (3), 6 (4).

Elena Dementieva, U.S. Russia, def. Elena Bovina, U.S. Russia, 7 (4), 6 (3), 6 (4).

Venus Williams 7 (1), United States, def. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia-Montenegro, 7 (4), 6 (1), 7 (5).

Patty Schnyder, U.S. Switzerland, def. Fabiola Zuluaga, Colombia, 6 (3), 6 (4), 6 (3).

Nathalie Pietrangola, U.S. Switzerland, def. Nathalie Pietrangola, U.S. Switzerland, 6 (3), 6 (4), 6 (3).

Auto racing

Lexus Indy 300 qualifying

Champ Car World Series

Surfers Paradise, Australia

With car number in parentheses, driver, type of car and time and laps.

1. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.499 seconds and 106.545 mph.

2. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

3. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

4. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

5. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

6. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

7. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

8. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

9. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

10. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

11. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

12. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

13. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

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15. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

16. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

17. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

18. Travis Pastrana, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

19. J. Sebastian Bourdais, Ford-Conti, 30.501 seconds and 106.545 mph.

J. Lewis, Michigan, 30.327 seconds and 106.545 mph.

John Edwards, Michigan, 30.327 seconds and 106.545 mph.

Scott McCarroll, Michigan, 30.327 seconds and 106.545 mph.

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Marshall leads W. Virginia to top of Big East

QB breaks McNabb's rushing mark

By JOHN RABY

The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Syracuse found out the hard way how difficult it is to harness West Virginia's Rasheed Marshall.

When Marshall wasn't improving for first downs with his legs, he was finding his receivers in the end zone. And now No. 15 West Virginia has sole possession of first place in the Big East.

"He's a running back who can throw the ball. He's elusive, a good arm, and he's able to find his guys open despite some scrambling," Syracuse safety Diamond Ferri said.

Marshall threw for three scores and ran for 87 yards to break Donovan McNabb's conference career rushing record for quarterbacks in the Mountaineers' 27-6 win Thursday night.

Marshall now has 1,605 career rushing yards, breaking McNabb's mark of 1,561. In 2002, Marshall set the season mark of 666 formerly held by Michael Vick at Virginia Tech.

When asked if he should be considered as good a college quarter-

back as the pair, Marshall said, "Yeah. Heck yeah. If you ask me, I definitely do."

"Being mentioned in the same sentence as Vick and McNabb, those guys you see on Sundays making plays. Just to be in the same category and surpassing them is great."

It turns out Marshall was prophetic. He told a teammate at the start of the season he thought he would break the record against McNabb's former team.

"It makes it that much better. There is an extra sweetness to it," Marshall said.

Marshall set the record on a 24-yard TD run that was called back when receiver Chris Henry was flagged for holding. Marshall was credited with nine yards on the spot play.

Henry made up for the gaffe on the next play, hauling in a 25-yard scoring pass for a 17-0 halftime lead.

Earlier, Henry scored from 27 yards out. It marked the second straight year he had two TD catches against Syracuse.

West Virginia (6-1, 2-0) amassed 279 yards on the ground



West Virginia quarterback Rasheed Marshall (2) is tackled by Syracuse defenders Anthony Smith (20), Diamond Ferri (22), Ryan Lassus (94) and Kelvin Smith (8) on Thursday. Marshall set a Big East career rushing mark for quarterbacks and threw three touchdown passes.

against the league's worst defense, led by Jason Colson's 113 yards.

The Mountaineers held Syracuse to 66 yards rushing and stopped four Orange drives inside the 20-yard line without

points, including twice in the fourth quarter.

But West Virginia, which entered the game with touchdowns on 18 of 20 red-zone possessions, had its own troubles deep in Syracuse territory.

Three drives ended inside the Syracuse 10, resulting in two Brad Cooper field goals. Another Cooper attempt was partially blocked.

"When we put it all together, I will be happy," Marshall said. "We still have mental mistakes — blocking the wrong guy, throwing it to the wrong person, that type of thing."

Walter Reyes, Syracuse's leading rusher, was ill and missed his first game since the start of his freshman season, a streak of 42 contests. Reyes wore a jacket and a towel over his head on the sidelines.

"He was in bed all day with an anthrax. There was no way he could play because he was sick as a dog," Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualoni said.

Reyes' replacement, Damien Rhodes, was limited to play Connecticut and Pittsburgh in the next two weeks, must win three of its final four games to become bowl eligible. Each loss by the Orange has been a blow to the season.

"Every single week is a challenge playing the schedule we have," Pasqualoni said.

Tiny track poses big challenge for drivers

By HANK KURT JR.

The Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Midway through their 10-lap race play-off, the Nextel Cup contenders are at the shortest and slowest oval on the NASCAR circuit — a half-mile time series champion Jeff Gordon insists can be as damaging to title hopes as the fastest tracks.

The nearly flat half-mile Martinsville Speedway reminds no one of high-banked and ultra-fast Talladega, but presents its own set of problems.

"At Talladega, everybody talks about avoiding the big one," said Gordon, third in the competition among the top 10 racers. "There, it's one big wreck that collects 17 cars. At Martinsville, it's 17 little wrecks that collect several cars."

Gordon has firsthand knowledge of the problems a driver might encounter at Martinsville, where he's won three consecutive poles and has five career victories.

It could also have been three straight victories, but Gordon was unlucky in Martinsville's spring race. Running second to Dale Earnhardt Jr., Gordon's Chevrolet was damaged by a chunk of concrete that broke loose from the track, and he finished sixth.

Even worse for Gordon, now 74 points behind series leader Kurt Busch and 50 back of Earnhardt,

was management's decision to resurface since the last race.

"The new racing surface is smooth with a lot of grip," he said. "But I wish they had waited to make the changes. I thought we had a big edge on the competition."

Many drivers welcomed the resurfacing, even though some have wondered whether a faster surface will make for a one-groove track with passing virtually nonexistent.

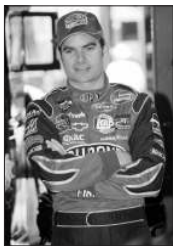
"I'm somewhat fearful of that," said Tony Stewart, sixth in the standings. "But no one will truly know until we all get there and start running on it."

Two years ago, Busch surprised even himself by winning on the 526-mile oval. In that race, a quick pit stop with 91 laps to go gave him the lead, and taught him that timing — and luck — are keys to succeeding on the narrow track with extremely tight turns.

"It's going to have the intensity like it always does, but yet the top-10 guys are going to feel that pressure of when to pit and what decisions to make," he said.

Unlike larger tracks, where the leaders frequently pit almost in unison, Martinsville's slower speed encourages some to stay out longer to get track position vital to success as the race winds down and the best cars lead the way.

The conditions also put a premium on team performance.



Nextel Cup driver Jeff Gordon has won three straight poles and five races at Martinsville Speedway.

"It's one of those tracks where you can be pretty good and have a bad pit stop and it costs you a lot of track position," said Earnhardt, a top-five finisher in each of the last five races here without winning. "It's hard to get it back, especially with the new surface."

Complicating that effort, said Greg Zipsadel, crew chief for Stewart, is trying to battle back against 42 other cars all trying to win.

"Martinsville is the type of place where if something can happen, then it will happen to someone, somehow," Zipsadel said. "Plus, tempers and things tend to get stirred up there and it's really easy to get caught up in someone else's mess."

"Hopefully we'll stay fast and just get through it all to get us a good finish."

Hawaii's Chang on verge of breaking NCAA pass record

By JAYMES SONG

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii's Timmy Chang started playing organized football in middle school as a cornerback. Now he's on the verge of becoming the most prolific passer in college history.

The fifth-year senior from Honolulu needs 559 yards passing against San Jose State on Saturday night to break the NCAA mark of 15,031 yards set by Brigham Young's Ty Detmer in 1988-91.

Considering that Chang threw for 534 yards against Louisiana Tech last year, 559 doesn't seem impossible. But the right-hander is nursing an injury to his non-throwing shoulder, making such a performance even more unlikely.

If he doesn't break the record against the Spartans, Chang will have to wait for next week's game at No. 10 Boise State.

Warriors coach June Jones has said he envisioned Chang would break the record the first time the quarterback stepped onto the field as a highly touted freshman.

Chang has a "quick release similar to Jeff George and his arm ability reminds me of a Chris Miller type of guy," Jones said.

"He has unbelievable vision," Jones added. "I think he has the best understanding next to Wade Wilson to what we're doing. He's got a lot of things that are rare."

In five games this season,

Chang has thrown for 1,659 yards and 13 touchdowns with one interception. But the Warriors (2-3, 2-2 Western Athletic Conference) have struggled with dropped passes and have had trouble moving the ball on key series.

Chang leads the WAC with an average of 332 yards passing per game, and is third in the nation in total offense. He has thrown for 14,473 yards and 92 touchdowns in his career. Chang is No. 7 on the career TD list — Detmer is first with 117 TDs.

"It just isn't really publicized, but he's climbing up the career touchdown ladder, too," Hawaii quarterbacks coach Dan Morrison said. "He just passed up Peyton Manning."

"The yardage indicates he's been very successful for a long time consistently, but touchdowns is what wins football games," he said.

On the other hand, with 68 interceptions Chang is close to Purdue quarterback Mark Herrmann's record of 73.

Chang has had his home moments as a star in his tough state. Last year, Chang was booed at home and benched late in the season for ineffectiveness. Yet he came off the bench and threw for 475 yards and five touchdowns in a 54-48 triple-overtime victory over Houston in the Hawaii Bowl.

Hawaii fans have always demanded a lot from Chang. "There's a certain spoiled element because the expectations are extremely high for Hawaii Bowl season. But it doesn't bother him and it doesn't bother us."

Williams' attorney: RB retired because of dispute with NFL

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Ricky Williams abruptly retired from the Miami Dolphins last summer because he disagreed with the NFL about a drug test. Williams now wants to play again.

Attorney David Cornwell said Thursday the league "took a position regarding that test that we thought was inappropriate." "What we challenged was the testing and the specimen from last December's testing," Cornwell said after a 90-minute meeting with two NFL officials and a union representative aimed at resuming the star running back's career.

"It was important to have us all in the same room," Cornwell said. "In the course of the last 10 months, there have been various discussions between the parties. Tim May, 2002, last December, and last spring, a second positive test calls for a player

2002 rushing champ seeks reinstatement

"My preference is that he was able to play last week."

Williams did not attend the meeting. Cornwell said his client is taking classes in California and refused to elaborate.

"He had a class today — I spoke to him right after the meeting," Cornwell said. An arbitrator ruled last month that Williams, 27, must repay more than \$8.6 million to the Dolphins for breaching his contract.

Cornwell said as far as he's concerned, that was nothing to do with Williams' desire to return.

"My assessment is he wants to play football," Cornwell said.

The Miami Herald has quoted Williams as saying he has failed three drug tests — in May 2002, last December, and last spring.

A second positive test calls for a player

to be fined his salary for four games and a third results in a four-game suspension without pay. A first or second failed test is not made public.

An issue is whether Williams decided to retire as a result of learning he was facing a four-game suspension.

"I'm not going to go into the specifics of our rationale," Cornwell said. "We had a point of view, the NFL had a different point of view."

That being the case, Cornwell said he did not believe Williams should face a suspension upon returning.

"Ricky made the decision to retire. Clearly, Ricky overreacted as things unfolded," Cornwell said. "But for that misunderstanding, he would not have retired. This was a human who had a particularly emotional reaction to a set of circumstances."

"I've seen hundreds of reports concerning what this was about. None of them are right. As far as I know, he never wanted to stop playing football. The issue was not whether he wanted to play football. The issue was the implications of his continuing to play football."

After announcing his desire to return, Williams told the Herald his intent to continue smoking marijuana played a role in his decision to stop playing after five NFL seasons — three with New Orleans and two with the Dolphins.

Williams rushed for 3,225 yards in two seasons with the Dolphins, currently the NFL's only wireless team.

Cornwell said he wasn't qualified to say if Williams was in playing shape, but added: "I think he looks great. I think his mood is excellent. I view him as being in great shape, very strong. In this process, anxious to get back at it."

Marino, Young, Irvin top list of Hall of Fame nominees

The Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — Quarterbacks Dan Marino and Steve Young and wide receiver Michael Irvin are among nine first-time nominees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue also is among the 89 nominees on the preliminary ballot.



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Marino, who holds the career records for yards passing, completions and touchdown passes, spent his entire 16-season career with the Miami Dolphins. Young, who began his career in the USFL, played first in the NFL for Tampa Bay, then starred with San Francisco, setting a record for touchdown passes in a Super Bowl with six in the 1995 game. Irvin starred for the Dallas teams that won three Super Bowls in four seasons in the 1990s.

Other first-time nominees include Dan Reeves, who coached Denver to three Super Bowls and Atlanta to another; guard Nate Newton, who played with Irvin on the Dallas Super Bowl team; defensive lineman Charles Haley, who was on Super Bowl winners with both San Francisco and Dallas; and the late Derrick Thomas, who starred at linebacker for Kansas City.

Saying he's not a 'tough guy,' Jags' Leftwich shrugs off pain

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville quarterback Byron Leftwich doesn't understand why his teammates and coaches rave about his toughness.

Sure, there was the memorable shin injury he played through at Marshall in 2002 — when his linemen had to carry him downfield after big gains against Akron. Then there was the bruised shoulder and sprained ankle he played through last weekend against Kansas City.

But tough? He believes that's a word better used to describe Tennessee's Steve McNair or Green Bay's Brett Favre.

"I'm not a tough guy," Leftwich said Thursday. "I don't want to be a superhero. I just try to deal with pain the best I can and if I'm capable of helping my team, I will always do that. We'll worry about pain and whatever I did to myself after the game."

That was his plan in college and it will be again Sunday at Indianapolis, a game that could play a role in deciding the AFC South.

Leftwich returned to practice Thursday and took the majority of the repetitions, a good indication he will start against the division-leading Colts. The Jaguars never questioned whether he would go.

Coach Jack Del Rio knew all about Leftwich's reputation when the Jaguars drafted him with the seventh overall pick last year. But the coach said he learned even more about the second-year starter on Sunday.

"I think you gain respect when you see somebody who's a real warrior, giving it up, playing through pain, playing through tough circumstances," Del Rio said. "I think anybody who saw his effort has to feel like this guy is pretty tough. I think I've seen more of it. I just think that's the way he's wired."

Leftwich bruised his left shoulder on the second series against



With injuries to an ankle and shoulder, Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich completed seven of eight passes in a last-minute game-winning drive last week.

Kansas City and was helped off the field. He didn't miss a snap. Then he sprained his right ankle late in the game and was hobbling between plays.

Once again, he stayed in the game. He led the Jags on a 70-yard touchdown drive in the closing minutes and capped it with a 14-yard scoring pass to Cortez Hankton with 45 seconds to play, lifting Jacksonville to a 22-16 victory.

He was seven of eight for 67 yards on the final drive and finished the game 24 of 36 for 298 yards with three touchdowns, two passing and one rushing.

Leftwich limped off the field, left the stadium on crutches and was wearing a walking boot Monday. He did not practice Wednesday, but said he expects to be close to full strength on Sunday.

Bears to give Couch a tryout

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Their quarterback situation a mess, the Chicago Bears will bring in Tim Couch for a physical and a tryout Friday.

Chicago starter Rex Grossman is out for the season with a knee injury and backup Jonathan Quinn has struggled in two starts.

Rookie Craig Krenzel and Chad Hutchinson, who started nine games for the Dallas Cowboys as a rookie in 2002, are also in the mix.

Couch, first pick in the 1999 draft by the Cleveland Browns,

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis:
• **RBs:** RB Travis Henry (foot) questionable.
• **EGs:** LB Mark Simoneau (foot) doubtful.
• **Jaguars:** QB Byron Leftwich (shoulder, ankle) questionable.
• **Panthers:** LB Mark Fields (back) probable.
• **Vikings:** WR Randy Moss (hamstring) questionable.

was released in June and signed with the Green Bay Packers.

Bothered by a sore arm and a difficulty grasping the offense, he completed just 11 of 34 passes for 96 yards in three exhibition games for Green Bay and was cut Sept. 5.

"He was injured early. He's well now, and I want to give him a physical and see exactly where he is. Let him work out and see exactly where he is there and kind of go from there," Bears coach Lou Piniella said Thursday.

"Hopefully he will have a great workout and we'll try to do something with him. But right now it's nothing more than a physical and a workout."

Couch started 59 games for the Browns, passing for 64 touchdowns and 11,131 yards, but a 2004 made him expendable when the Browns signed free agent Jeff Garcia to be their starter.

Appeals court won't rehear Claret case

NEW YORK — A federal appeals court has rejected running back Maurice Claret's longest bid to go to the court to reconsider his lawsuit challenging the NFL's eligibility rule for the draft.

Lawyers on both sides were told this week that the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had rejected a request for a rare rehearing by all 11 judges. The former Ohio State player must now decide whether to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In May, a three-judge appeals panel said federal labor policy allows NFL teams to set rules for when players can enter the league, stopping Claret from entering the NFL Draft.

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*Certain rules and restrictions apply. See the official website at www.oconus.com and www.stripes.com. There is no prize for participants, but one must register to play.

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OCONUS

Francona gives ball to Wakefield in Game 1

Knuckleballer gets call as Boston's bullpen recovers from lengthy ALCS

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Tim Wakefield is finally going to get a chance to start a playoff game — and it's a big one by Dave Low.

When Boston returns to the World Series on Saturday for the first time since 1986, Wakefield will be on the mound at Fenway Park. It will be his first start of this year's playoffs, though he made three relief appearances.

He was also ready to relieve in the pennant-clincher against New York on Wednesday night, but he wasn't needed in a 10-3 victory that completed Boston's unprecedented rally from a 3-0 deficit.

"Once we stayed away from Wake, he was Game 1 starter," Boston manager Terry Francona said Thursday. "I think pitching staff-wise, we'll go from being on fumes to being OK. Because, a couple days off for these guys will be huge."

Curt Schilling will start Game 2 at Fenway Park, meaning he won't have to bat and risk damage to his injured ankle. Pedro Martinez will start Game 3, giving him two extra days of rest, followed by Dwight Gooden.

Low was being bounced from the rotation at the start of the playoffs before resurrecting his status with six innings of one-hit ball against New York in the seventh game of the AL championship series. Bronson Arroyo, the Game 3 starter in the ALCS, will be in the bullpen.

Wakefield, who gave up Aaron Boone's homer to end the 2003 ALCS, pitched the last three innings of Game 5 against the Yankees in four and got the win in Boston's 5-4 victory in 14 innings. Francona also said that designated hitter David Ortiz probably would play first base in St. Louis, where the DH won't be used.

"We don't want that bat out of the lineup," Francona said. "It's a



Boston's Tim Wakefield gave up seven runs and nine hits in 7 1/3 innings in the ALCS, but threw three scoreless innings in Game 5.

shame ... because that's not our team. Our team is having David Ortiz DH and having (Kevin) Millar play first and have (Doug) Mientkiewicz come in for defense, and that's not going to be our team. We'll do the best we can."

With two days between the end of the ALCS and the World Series,

Francona's overworked pitchers have time to rest. They played 12 innings in Game 4, 14 in Game 5 and then two nine-inning games, without a day off.

Wakefield showed up at Fenway on Thursday and threw to Doug Mirabello, who will catch him in the opener. Closer Keith Foulke also loosened up his arm after having pitched in the fourth, fifth and sixth games. He was not used in Game 7.

Low allowed one hit in six innings on just two days' rest Wednesday night but left after throwing 69 pitches in six innings.

Martinez came in and allowed two runs in the seventh before Mike Timlin pitched the eighth and he and Alan Embree worked the ninth.

Why not another inning with Lowe, who had pitched so well?

"Derek Lowe had no more innings," Francona said. "The last thing he said to me when he went out (to the mound) in the sixth was, 'Don't leave me out there to die.'"

The plan was for Lowe to pitch to three hitters then be replaced

by lefty Mike Myers if the fourth hitter, lefty Hideki Matsui, came up. But Lowe retired the side in order and Martinez, rested after starting Monday night, took over in the seventh.

"There weren't exactly an abundance of fresh arms down there," Francona said of his decision to use Martinez. "I was excited about bringing him in that game and I know he gave up some hits and some runs but he actually threw the ball very well."

Francona said he got a note from Yankees owner George Steinbrenner before Game 7, and a call from New York manager Joe Torre afterward to congratulate him. In between, Francona delighted in destroying their championship hopes.

The enormity of beating the Yankees hadn't sunk in yet for Francona.

"We haven't accomplished what we set out to accomplish yet," he said. "I'm glad we're playing still, which a few days ago was certainly an uphill battle. But it's just time to have the final celebration. We're excited to be doing what we're doing, but we're not done."

Lewis leads Funai with a career-low 62

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — J.L. Lewis matched his lowest score on the PGA Tour and was kicking himself for two short birdie putts that got away.

"I should have shot lower today," Lewis said after a 10-under 62 Thursday.

Vijay Singh extended his streak of 21 rounds under par at Disney — 17 of those in the 60s — and quickly retreated to the practice range to pound balls under the steamy sun.

"It was a fighting round today," the Fijian said of his bogey-free 66.

The Funai Classic at Disney always brings out low scores and high expectations.

Lewis eventually realized his hopes were about as good as it gets, and it gave him a two-shot lead. He putted for birdie on every hole and made 11 on the Magnolia course, his only setback coming on a three-putt from the fringe on No. 15, the only green he missed in regulation.

"I played well and I putted fairly well until I missed a couple there," Lewis said with a slight resignation in his voice. "But I made more of them, so I'm pretty happy with it."

Two-time Disney champion John Huston, John Deere Classic winner Mark Hensley and Scott Hendraker shot 64, while two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal was among those at 65.

Hensley had such an easy round that he couldn't remember where he made his birdies.

The scores were so low on the Magnolia and Palm courses that 86 players shot in the 60s and only 17 players in the 144-man field were over par. It helped that the sun was out, the breeze was mild and the turf was soft.

Lewis made his round sound just that simple.

"Nobody can explain golf, so I'm not going to try," he said. "I'm just trying to hit each shot the best I can and get myself in a situation where hopefully, I'll have a chance to do something good on Sunday. That's all you can do."

Lewis birdied his first four holes to put his name atop the



J.L. Lewis' score on Thursday matched his lowest on the PGA Tour, last accomplished in the final round of last year's 84 Lumber Classic, which he won.

leader board. He birdied five of the first six holes on his back nine to separate himself from the other early starters.

It was his lowest first-round score on the PGA Tour. Lewis also had a 62 in the final round last year when he won the 84 Lumber Classic.

Eight others joined Singh in the group at 64, from former British Open champion Ben Curtis to Wachovia winner Joey Sindelar to the resurgent Tom Lehman, who had his 15th consecutive round under par.

The qualifying number entering the final round. Her 8-over 80 was better than four players in the third round and she matched the score of seven others.

"I felt like today I had so many birdies that I left out there," she said. "I played really well. But the putting is just something that I've been struggling with."

Nuggets' Anthony cited for marijuana possession

The Associated Press

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony was cited for marijuana possession last week, though the Denver Nuggets star says the bag of drugs was left in his backpack by a friend.

Anthony, 20, was issued a summons last Friday at Denver International Airport while the Nuggets were waiting to board a flight to Milwaukee for an exhibition game.

"I am innocent of this charge because I did not use or intentionally possess marijuana. I had no idea that there was marijuana in my backpack," Anthony read from a statement before the Nuggets' exhibition game in Los Angeles against the Clippers. "I sincerely regret any embarrassment this unfortunate incident has had on me and my supporters in the Denver Nuggets organization. They have always stood by me, and that means the world to me."

Anthony's attorney, Daniel Recht, said that the marijuana was left there by an out-of-town friend who borrowed the backpack last week.

"The friend obviously uses marijuana and left a small amount in the backpack when he returned it to Carmelo," Recht said. "Carmelo had no idea there was marijuana in the backpack."

Anthony was charged with possessing less than one ounce of marijuana, a petty offense with a maximum \$100 fine and no jail time.

Recht said Anthony's friend, James Cunningham of St. Louis, has signed an affidavit taking responsibility for leaving the marijuana in the backpack. Cunningham often stays with Anthony when he's in Denver on business.

Sports briefs

"Our position is that the city attorney has always been extremely fair, and I think that Carmelo—we want him treated like everybody else," Nuggets General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. "We want all the facts to come to light, which I think that most or all of them have."

J. O'Neal to sit out rest of Pacers preseason
INDIANAPOLIS — Jermaine O'Neal's preseason approach to be finished because of a foot injury.

Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said Thursday that O'Neal probably would miss the remaining five games to rest a strained ligament in his left foot.

"Our hope is to get him back by the beginning of the regular season," Carlisle said.

Sharapova defeats V. Williams

ZURICH, Switzerland — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova needed little more than an hour to defeat Venus Williams 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Swisscom Challenge on Friday.

The seventh-seeded Williams, who won the tournament in 1999, broke the 17-year-old Russian in the match's opening game. The fourth-seeded Sharapova broke Williams twice on the way to winning the first set.

In the second set, Sharapova broke to lead 4-3 and held on to serve for the match, 5-4.

Sharapova's victory sets up an all-Russian semifinal with No. 3 Elena Dementieva.

LPGA Tour rookie falters in PGA Q-school

LA QUINTA, Calif. — (AP) LPGA Tour rookie Isabelle Beisiegel shot her second consecutive 80 Thursday in the third round of the PGA Tour qualifying tournament, effectively ending her chance — at least for now — of becoming the first woman to qualify for the men's tour.

Beisiegel's 54-hole total of 28-over 244 put her 81st in the 82-player field. Only the top 23 players and ties from the first-stage qualifying event on the Norman Course at PGA West advanced to the second stage of the three-step process.

Beisiegel will be 23 shots off

the qualifying number entering the final round. Her 8-over 80 was better than four players in the third round and she matched the score of seven others.

"I felt like today I had so many birdies that I left out there," she said. "I played really well. But the putting is just something that I've been struggling with."

Yankees preparing for offseason overhaul

Cashman back as GM, charged with signing big talent

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brian Cashman's job is safe — at least for now.

The rest of the New York Yankees have plenty to worry about this winter.

Soon after the Yankees completed a historic collapse against Boston in the AL playoffs, volatile owner George Steinbrenner told Cashman, the team's general manager, that he will not be fired before next season.

Steinbrenner also informed Cashman he should prepare to be summoned to Tampa, Fla., for meetings in the next few days: The star-studded Yankees need to figure out why they fell apart against the Red Sox after opening a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven ALCS.

"He wants results for his investment, like any businessman," Cashman said Thursday.

Cashman has one year remaining on his contract. It's his job to spend Steinbrenner's money wisely and bring championships to the Big Apple, but the Yankees have gone four years without winning the World Series.

He knows what he needs to look for in the offseason.

"It'll be pitching," Cashman said. "I don't think offense is a problem on this club."

Despite a \$183 million Opening Day pay-



The Yankees are reportedly interested in Houston Astros center fielder Carlos Beltran, who can become a free agent after the World Series ends.

roll, the Yankees were short on starting pitching all season. When they wanted to add Randy Johnson during the summer, they didn't have enough major league-ready prospects to interest Arizona in a trade.

Injuries to the aging rotation forced manager Joe Torre to overwork his bullpen, leaving the team vulnerable in the playoffs — even with a seemingly insurmountable lead.

The Red Sox rallied against catcher Mariano Rivera in Game 4, then setup man Tom Gordon in Game 5. Those two games totaled 26 innings in two days, taxing New York's relievers.

Because of a rainout earlier in the series,

39-year-old Kevin Brown wound up starting Game 7 on a balky back and only three days' rest.

He got hammered, as did right-hander Javier Vazquez, who followed Brown and walked five batters in two innings in Boston's 10-3 blowout.

"Those are the areas we're going to look at, the bullpen and the rotation," Cashman said. "I thought this past winter was more difficult. We had a great amount of holes to fill. This winter, we don't have three guys coming out of the rotation, but we do have pitching needs, nonetheless."

New York became the first team to blow a 3-0 lead in a best-of-seven series. The rival Red Sox celebrated right in the middle of Yankee Stadium, a most humiliating moment for such a storied franchise.

"DAMNED YANKEES," proclaimed the New York Post over a shot of shortstop Derek Jeter hanging his head.

"THE CHOKES ON US," offered the Daily News, which featured a doctored picture inside of Babe Ruth with a tear rolling down his cheek.

Still, Steinbrenner was classy in defeat Thursday.

"I congratulate the Boston Red Sox on their great victory," he said in a statement. "I want to thank our loyal fans for their enormous support. Of course, I am disappointed because I wanted a championship for them and for our city. You can be assured, we will get to work and produce a great team next year."

The offense was not without fault, though some of the team's best hitters did get off to a good start. After a 19-8 victory at Fenway Park in Game 3, New York failed to come through in the clutch time and time again. Gary Sheffield was 1-for-17 in the final four games. Alex Rodriguez went 2-for-17.

"When a guy is hitting .640 for the first few games of a series, he's probably not going to hit .640 for the whole series. This isn't Little League," said batting coach Don Mattingly, who said he would like to return next season if the organization wants him back.

"Those are the games I look back on, that we left some guys out there. We got a little bit out of our game plan," he said.

Help is probably on the way. The Yankees are said to be extremely interested in Carlos Beltran, the multitalented center fielder who is having a huge postseason with the Houston Astros.

Beltran can become a free agent after the World Series, and the Yankees are probably one of the few teams that can afford him. If he winds up in New York, Bernie Williams could become a full-time designated hitter.

The Yankees also expect slugger Jason Giambi to be completely healthy by spring training.

The free-agent market for starting pitchers includes Pedro Martinez, but it's hard to imagine him going from the Red Sox to the Yankees. There's too much ugly history there. Derek Lowe could also be available — he was the winner in Game 7 of Wednesday night.

Other interesting names include Florida's Carl Pavano, Atlanta's Russ Ortiz, St. Louis' Matt Morris, and Matt Clement of the Chicago Cubs.

The free-spending Yankees are sure to add somebody.

"There's a lot of names, but I've got to dig now into the scouting reports," Cashman said. "I feel I know how to do this job. I feel I do a good job."

Bench coach Willie Randolph could be headed across town. He is scheduled to interview Monday with new Mets General Manager Omar Minaya for their manager's job.

City backs off plan to ban alcohol around Fenway during World Series

By MARTIN FINUCANE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The mayor backed off his threat of banning alcohol from around Fenway Park during the upcoming World Series but more police will be inside neighborhood bars to make sure fans don't get too drunk or rowdy.

After meeting for an hour Friday with more than 25 bar and restaurant owners, Mayor Thomas Menino backed down from a threat to invoke a rarely used state law to ban liquor "in cases of riot or great public excitement."

He had considered the ban after thousands of raucous fans took to the streets after the home-town Red Sox won the American League championship. One college student died after being hit in the eye by police firing pepper spray into the crowd, and more than a dozen others were injured.

"Since people won't accept responsibility, I, as mayor, will take it into my own hands," Menino said earlier in the day.

Instead, bar owners agreed to a series of restrictions, including not allowing patrons to line up out-

side to wait to get in, not allowing bars to become overcrowded or patrons to drink too much, and not allowing television crews to shoot scenes inside bars. Authorities were worried that television coverage of bar patrons encourages people to act out as they play to the cameras.

In addition, police will step up their presence inside bars near the ballpark and around the tourist hot spots of Faneuil Hall and the city's waterfront to enforce the agreed upon restriction.

The bar owners, who agreed to the restriction, are "part of what we're trying to do to make sure the world sees Boston in a positive manner," Menino said.

Bar and restaurant owners had expressed outrage when Menino first floated the idea of banning alcohol sales around Fenway Park, where the Red Sox will go up against the St. Louis Cardinals in the first of seven World Series games begins Saturday.


After the meeting with the mayor, Patrick Lyons, who owns several nightclubs on Landsdowne Street across from the ballpark, said: "we're intent on having a good safe environment within the licensed premises."

The meeting followed the death of an Emerson College student who was hit in the eye by a pepper spray-filled ball fired by a police officer. Victoria Snelgrove, 21, was fatally wounded in the post-game rowdiness outside Fenway Park following the Red Sox's series-clinching win over the Yankees.

Snelgrove, of East Bridgewater, was among 16 people hurt in and around Kenmore Square early Thursday morning as thousands of fans spilled out onto the streets to celebrate Boston's win over archrival New York. She died after pepper spray was shot into the crowd and hit her in the eye.

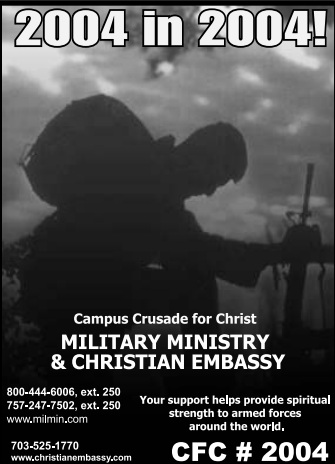
The student's father, Rick Snelgrove, said angrily that the police did nothing wrong. Standing outside the family home, he held up a photograph of his smiling daughter.

"What happened to her should not happen to any American child going to any type of game, no matter what," he said. "She loved the Red Sox. She went in to celebrate with friends. She was a bystander. She was out of the box, but she still got shot. Awful things happen to good people. My daughter was an exceptional person."



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Cards cost Clemens a trip to Fenway Park

A ST. LOUIS If of New England would have been quaking with anticipation. Just imagine: Roger Clemens back at Fenway, wearing the enemy's colors for a fourth time in the postseason, this time in Game 7 of the World Series.

Jim Litke



back park.

Now, instead of a rematch with Clemens wearing the brick-red jersey of the Astros, it's just another of those tantalizing baseball "what-might-have-beens."

Don't try telling this to the fans in Boston and St. Louis, but a little electricity and even more glamour drained out of the World Series early Thursday night. That's when Scott Rolen lined a back-breaking, two-run homer off Clemens just beyond the wall in left in the sixth inning to lift the Cardinals to an eventual 5-2 win

"Even with everything I've done in my career, this was special."

Roger Clemens
Houston Astros pitcher

in Game 7 of the National League Championship Series.

"When I have a chance to look back tomorrow and throughout the week a little bit, I'll be extremely happy I didn't break down this year because I couldn't afford to do that with the other injuries we had," Clemens said. "I couldn't have an off night. You grind and hope it's good enough."

"I really felt good about our chances tonight," he said. "It just didn't work out."

That the Astros got this far, farther than they had in the 42-year history of the franchise, seemed like small consolation on this night. They were 12 games behind St. Louis in the NL Central when Phil Garner took over as manager for Jimmy Williams and 19% back when they began the improbable run that carried them to the wild card and past Atlanta in the division series.

Clemens was 10-1 from the mid-way point of the season, including two victories in the playoffs, and each outing became more important once fellow starters Wade Miller and Andy Pettitte were injured and had to be shut down for the season. The wear and tear on Clemens' arm and nerves, at age

42, was considerable, but he never let it show. Instead, he took the ball every time Garner offered it, determined to see the string play out.

When it did, finally, the memories that came flooding back weren't about the performances on the mound that could earn Clemens an unprecedented seventh Cy Young award. Instead, they were about the quirky moments that validated his decision to unretire and pitch once more in his hometown just a few weeks after telling New York Yankees boss George Steinbrenner that he was through.

Whether he'll do the same to Astros owner Drayton McLane is anybody's guess.

"I'll leave that for later," Clemens said.

What he chose to remember at the moment was the fans in Houston turning up outside his house at all hours of the night and day, pleading with him to return after the Astros signed Pettitte. He remembered the brief bus rides to different ballparks as the Astros heated up in the playoff chase, filled with bravado and laughs. He remembered his sons getting a chance to see him pitch at home

and how, on more than a few nights, he drove home wearing "a funny smile on my face."

"Even with everything I've done in my career," he said, "this was special."

Unfortunately, it's also over. Pettitte, who pitched alongside Clemens in New York and helped convince him to come back, promised to "try my darnedest" into talking the old man to come back.

"The funny thing," he added, "is that my biggest worry was that Roger would get hurt and the whole thing would end badly. Instead, he has a Cy Young season and I'm the one who ends up going down."

For most of the night, against one of the most potent lineups in the game, Clemens looked like his untouchable self. No one in the Cards' batting order could get around on his splitter or his fastball — he was clocked between 85 mph and 94 mph throughout — and he felt strong. Then came the sixth inning.

"The night was cool, he looked strong and his velocity was still right there. It was a dangerous part of the lineup, some of the best hitters there are against one of the best pitchers of all time,"

Astros pitching coach Jim Hickey recalled. "We had as much confidence in Roger as anybody else we could have turned to."

"How could you not?" Hickey said. "It just turned out that two of them wound up getting the best of him."

That would be Albert Pujols, who pulled a low fastball into left for a double, and Rolen, who followed that by ripping a shot into the corner. Both figure to be showcase performers when St. Louis, baseball's winningest team this season, rolls into Fenway to start the World Series on Saturday night.

The Cards are as professional an outfit as there is in the game, solid and patient and efficient, but hardly spectacular. The Red Sox will counter with plenty of hitting, a little better pitching from starters to closer, and plenty more personality.

But the most entertaining pitcher in the game, the guy who came back and defied age and the odds of carrying an undermanned Astros team even this far, won't be along for the ride.

"I'm sure I'll watch bits and pieces of it," Clemens said.

Without the lure of the Rocket back at Fenway for a Game 7, it will be interesting to see how much of the nation does the same.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org

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SPORTS



Tiny Martinsville could become big problem for championship contenders, Page 26



Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz, the ALCS MVP, provided clutch hitting as the Red Sox came back from an 0-3 series deficit.



St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols, the NLCS MVP, batted .500 with four homers and nine RBIs against the Houston Astros.



Marshall sets Big East rushing record, leads No. 15 West Va. over Syracuse

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Wisconsin could get boost from Purdue a week after defeating Boilermakers

Page 25



Young, Marino, Irvin among nominees for Football Hall

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Old rivals meet again

Cardinals-Red Sox played seven-game Series in 1946, '67

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

One nemesis down, one to go for the Boston Red Sox. Paint the World Series red — Red Sox and Redbirds, a classic matchup starting Saturday night at Fenway Park.

After finishing off the New York Yankees, the Red Sox face their biggest National League nemesis, the St. Louis Cardinals, in an effort to reverse The Curse and win the World Series for the first time since 1918. St. Louis is expecting a tough series.

"They showed what they can do, coming back from 3-0," NLCS MVP Albert Pujols said. "They never give up. They knew it wasn't over until they lose that fourth game."

When Ted Williams led the Red Sox to the 1946 World Series following Boston's first AL pennant since 1918, the Cardinals defeated them again in seven games.

Boston, which lost Game 7 to the Cincinnati Reds in 1975 and the New York Mets in 1986, wasn't focused on its Series opponent after winning 10-3 at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday night to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series.

Earlier Thursday, Boston manager Terry Francona said he had not had time to focus on the NL teams.

"I hope they play 30 innings tonight. I hope they beat the heck out of each other," he said.



**Game 1: St. Louis at Boston
1:30 a.m. Sunday
AFN-Atlantic, Pacific, Korea;
AFN-Radio**

Game time is Central European.

St. Louis, which beat Houston 5-2 in Game 7 of the NL Championship Series Thursday night, was a major league-best 105-57 during the regular season. Boston's 98-64 mark was second in the AL, three games behind the Yankees.

"It's going to be a challenge," Cardinals outfielder Larry Walker said. "Obviously, they're riding a high, too."

Boston, which won its 11th pennant, starts knuckleballer Tim Lincecum in the opener, most likely against Woody Williams, followed by Curt Schilling for the Red Sox in Game 2. Boston's Pedro Martinez is slated for Game 3 at Busch Stadium on Tuesday, with Derek Lowe starting the following night.

"I see the Red Sox as a very deserving, very competitive ballclub," St. Louis third baseman Scott Rolen said. "It should be a nice challenge and a great contest."

In 1946, the Red Sox lost the first two games in St. Louis, won three straight at home, then dropped Game 6 on the road.

The Red Sox tied Game 7 at 3-3 in the eighth inning on Dom DiMaggio's two-run double off Harry Brecheen. But Enos Slaughter scored from first on Harry Walker's double in the bottom half as shortstop Johnny Pesky hesitated with his relay, according to lore, after receiving the throw from outfielder Leon Culbertson.

"The '48, '49, '50, '51 teams should have won pennants," said Pesky, who maintains he didn't hesitate with the throw. "It was heartbreaking and I still think about that. And when people say, 'Well, the same old Red Sox,' it disturbs me."

SEE RIVALS ON PAGE 30

■ Boston mayor backs off threat to ban alcohol sales near Fenway after fan is killed during celebration, Page 29

■ Cardinals give home fans thrill by beating Clemens, Astros to advance to first World Series since 1987, Page 30

After ALCS collapse, what's next for the Yankees? Page 29